■ Super
No room for wallflowers in so-called generation of strippers

■ Across / A18
Killer strain of meningitis returns; 5 dead

■ World / A13
UN staff sets vote of no confidence against Annan

■ Property
Resp outlook for second homes in coastal, mountain towns

Gulo sa Hacienda Luisita, sino ang may sala?
Vita a 21 * TV: Tues 29 IQ, watch PIQ TV!

George Canseco, 70; songs live 'Ngayon at Kailanman'

By Nini Valera

GEORGE Canseco is dead.

The songwriter, who wrote some of Pinoy pop music's most enduring classics, died of liver cancer at 11:a.m. yesterday at the Kidney Institute. He was 70.

His enduring ballads—all sad, sentimental

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Homeless in Sacramento, poor Arnold has to take jet

LOS ANGELES—After more than a year in office, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger still has not found a home in the capital city. So a nothing novice's place with an iconic mansion

Saturday, November 20, 2004 ★ 34 pages / vol. 19 / no. 248

Solons feasting on pork

A PLUG to the US from a longtime friend, the Philippines, is for America to strengthen its global role as the "beacon of hope, freedom and peace," President Arroyo said during her address after she was bestowed an honorary doctorate in humane letters by the University of San Francisco in California.

'Now we can bring home the bacon'

By Carlos Pilo, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Christine O. Avendaño

HAPPY days are here again.

No, not for the public who will continue to bear the brunt of rising prices of basic commodities, fuel, electricity and transport fares but only for a chosen few—the country's legislators.

Ignoring mounting clamor for a climate cut, if not the outright abolition, of their "pork barrel" funds, members of the House of Representatives have opted to retain the entire Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF), or the lawmakers' pork barrel, in the proposed P900 billion national budget for 2005.

The Senate is expected to follow suit.

The full restoration of their pork barrel immediately drew cheers and hosannas from most congressmen who months ago

GMA: Time to clear up RP-US misunderstanding

By Cynthia D. Balana

HOLLYMAR, California—Saying the time had come to quash any US-Philippine misunderstanding, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday urged President George W. Bush to use his second term in office to reach out to his allies and ease tensions caused by the war on terror.

She also made it clear that her country would stay alongside the United States in Washington's war on terror.

"Before his visitor President Bush has a unique opportunity to strengthen some international relationships that may have been strained in the wake of the Iraq invasion," she said in an address after receiving an honorary doctorate in humane letters at the University of San Francisco.

"This new term is a new opportunity to reach out, not just to the nations of the United States, but to the whole world."

Mrs Arroyo said she was looking forward to meeting with Bush at the 12th Leaders' Summit of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation in Santiago, Chile on Nov. 20 to 21.

Mrs Arroyo is expected to arrive on a chartered plane Friday night for the summit after a one-hour stop in Panama.

Her official itinerary released to the Philippine media delegation covering her visits to the United States and Chile only included a bilateral meeting with Chilean President Ricardo Lagos Escobar.

Up to now, there was still no word here either the Philippine or the US government if a one-on-one meeting between her and Bush in Santiago was in the cards.

"We want to move forward with President Bush in this new era we're in, in the quest for peace in Mindanao in Southern Philippines, and for a broader global cooperation on trade and economic issues," Mrs Arroyo said.

"Our two countries must continue the misunderstanding that sometimes arise among friends,

Windmills at center of Ilocos slay probe

By Jerry E. Esplanada

[text illegible]

LAOAG CITY—[illegible] before it has produced an ounce of energy, winds of controversy are already blowing around a commercial wind power plant about to rise in Bangui town.

The controversy includes allegations of misselling the murder of a crusading journalist.

Dubbed as a "baby" of Ilocos Norte Gov. Imee Marcos "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., the 24.5-megawatt wind farm is expected to be operational by February not this month as announced earlier

2 groups claim control of union

By Norman Bordadora

TWO DISSIDENT anti-damning leaderships of the United Laiuita Workers Union (Ulwu), said they are going apart in their positions on the labor conflict at Hacienda Luisita.

The group of Benn Galang claims the support of the [illegible] members Ulwu and is responsible for the crippling strike that is resumed together with the General Awareness de Tarlac Labor Union (Catlu).

Galang maintains that he is the recognized

After carnage, both sides now talking

By Jerome Aning and Norman Bordadora

REPRESENTATIVES of the feuding management and workers of the Central Azucarera de Tarlac yesterday met in Manila for the first time since Thursday's violence at Hacienda Luisita, although only the date of the next meeting was agreed on.

The management of Hacienda Luisita Inc. signalled it was willing to resume collective bargaining talks but not until the strike leaders

Assistant Labor Secretary Reinelda Ernesto Bitonio Jr. said "no substantial issue"—not even the bloody dispersal of picket lines that killed 14 people and injured more than 100—was discussed in the two-hour, closed-door session at the Department of Labor and Employment office. But the two camps said they would meet again and reiterated their wish to reopen talks for their deadlocked collective bargaining agreement, he said.

"The fact that they met today gives us hope that now by [illegible], a solution to this problem will be reached. Both parties want to look forward and move on from here," Bitonio said. "What's important is that they gave an assurance that they would go back to the negotiation table."

In a separate statement, Ricardo Ramos, president of the Central Azucarera de Tarlac Labor Union (Catlu), said "important matters" were aired during the meeting. He did not give assurance that the ongoing picket at Hacienda Luisita would stop.

Ramos said that in the next meeting, its legal issues confronting Luisita as a whole, such as retrenchment, would be tackled. But he said the Catlu panel would raise a few "clarificatory questions."

Gene Boyd: Not yet a sunset; a young leaf dies

By Nicolyn Mustasis
PDI Mindanao Bureau

THE PICTURE on the front page of the business on Nov. 14 was poignantly beautiful. It drew in close the faces that had beheld the faces of the young man who took a George for his killer, who slept him in the forehead (minutes before).

Gene Boyd Lumawag, photo editor of Mindanews, took that picture. It was the last frame in the camera found under his body, where he fell near the election post at the corner of the intersection of Bonifacio and Pioneer Streets (and Montes, at earlier reported) in downtown Jolo on June 22.

He died at 8:45 p.m., just as most of the residents were about to break their fast. It was the last fasting day of the holy month of Ramadan, the eve of the biggest Islamic holiday Hari Raya Haji.

The caption on the picture said Gene Boyd "had a love affair with the rising and setting sun." Exactly. And that was why we were moving with the pictures. To those of us who knew him, it was not the kind he would take.

"He wanted to be the Robert Capa of the Philippines," said photojournalist Dondi Tolentino. It was, the photo correspondent for whom an international photojournalism award was named, was killed when he stepped on a land mine while covering the Vietnam War.

It was a dream not unexpected of a someone who was born and grew up in war-torn Mindanao

KILLED IN ACTION. Full military honors are given Pfc Americus Gil Jonny S. Elgo. Maurice Keith for bore during his burial at Clark, Angeles City, on Friday. Parliamentarian killed in Iraq. His wife Arnola (left) mourns. (Story on Page A6)

PHOTOJOURNALIST Gene Boyd Lumawag (center) is laid to rest at the Sun Park of Memorial Park, Davao City bearing his mother Filonia (center), father Rene Lumawag and brother April John (right) demonstrated.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2005

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

Garcia: 1st day of retirement in jail

By Alcuin Papa, Armand Nocum and Fe Zamora

FORMER Armed Forces of the Philippines comptroller Maj.-Gen. Carlos Garcia spent his first day of retirement in a military cell yesterday as he faces court-martial and criminal trials on charges he salted away alleged ill-gotten wealth estimated at P145 million, including dollar deposits in the US.

Garcia was transferred to the heavily guarded compound of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines early morning yesterday as the AFP's head comptroller. He will not need any special treatment in the general.

In a press briefing yesterday in Camp Aguinaldo, AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Alexander Yano said Garcia was transferred to the ISAFP compound at around 2:30 a.m. from his quarters in College Street in Camp Aguinaldo. He had been "restricted to quarters," the military's version of a house arrest.

"The transfer was made because the charge was no chance flee. Garcia could escape and flee to the country. "It ISAFP detention center] is a tightly secured area. I have not heard of any escape from the ISAFP [which has] one wide and secure facility is."

Garcia, who retired from the military last Thursday after reaching the mandatory retirement age of 56, was supposed to have been transferred to the ISAFP on the same day. But Yano said the military transferred Garcia early morning yesterday, after Garcia held a party with relatives and friends on Thursday to mark his retirement, for "humanitarian" reasons.

"He have not received qualified request [that the transfer to ISAFP be postponed]. Maybe it was just for humanitarian consideration, considering that Nov. 18 was the birthday of the general. It was just a matter of hours," Yano explained.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has vowed to make Garcia's prosecution a showcase of her battle against graft and for public service.

Analysts say Arroyo's administration must prove Garcia's case and several others to quiet distrust now in semilimmy that has spanned 24 years of people rules (1986).

But an anticorruption group yesterday said Malacañang and the military were not interested in getting to the truth about the corruption cases against Garcia.

"I will not be surprised if there are powerful people helping him [Garcia] by influencing the court martial and the Ombudsman," former Army captain Rene Escalante, one of the customers of Garcia, said at the conference of the Alliance Corruption and Impunity Now (Act Now).

"There is no justice unless some one which could lead to a serious political crisis," said Jurgue. "Bringing [Garcia's] detainees to a [hard] and speedy trial is the only way to restore the AFP's good name from AFP

Malacañang's Third Division Chair Candelaria Legaspi threw out Garcia's motion to delay arraignment "for lack of merit."

Garcia is charged with perjury for failing to declare in his 1999 SAL ownership of a Toyota Previa worth P621,797, a Mitsubishi L-300 van deluxe worth P634,000 and a 1997 Honda Civic worth P540,000.

In his 1998 SAL, Garcia declared his relatives in his work only P870,000.

Ombudsman investigators later found that he had a total of nine vehicles, along with cash and properties here and in the United States worth about P142 million.

Legaspi, along with Assistant Justices Raoul T. Victorino and Norberto Y. Geraldez, set for Dec. 16 the pre-trial conference on Garcia's case and asked the defense and prosecution panels to submit their "pre-trial briefs." With a report from AFP

GARCIA looks at his watch on his way to the Sandiganbayan in Quezon City Friday

DOJ opposes amnesty for Oakwood mutineers

By Philip E. Taboso and Alcuin T. Papa

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice yesterday cautioned congressmen against granting amnesty to leaders of the failed July 2003 Oakwood mutiny.

"It might not be the proper time since we are in a crisis situation, politically and economically, and then [re-]agitate for destabilization," Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said.

At least 177 congressmen have signed a resolution urging the granting of amnesty to leaders and members of the Magdalo rebel group involved in the July 27 failed mutiny at the Oakwood Premier Hotel in Makati City.

Gonzalez noted that while it was the congressmen's prerogative to grant amnesty, the matter should be "studied carefully," Gonzalez said.

"Three people were convicted with the virtue of coup d'etat. Whether that has been expunged from their minds is another story," Gonzalez said.

The Makati Regional Trial court is currently hearing the coup-charges against 32 junior officers and enlisted personnel involved in the failed mutiny.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines had also initiated court-martial proceedings against the 200 mutineers for violations of the Articles of War.

But the AFP has left the issue of a general amnesty to the Magdalo soldiers to President Macapagal-Arroyo and Congress.

AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Alexander Yano told reporters yesterday that an amnesty was a "prerogative" of the President and concurred by Congress.

Customs exec probed over P214-M account

By Armand N. Nocum

AMID BIR government official is under investigation for allegedly maintaining $3,805,453 or P214 million investment in a local bank—a deposit account that's larger than his $795,000 cash that the family of Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia reportedly brought to the United States.

Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo called for the investigation of the dollar accounts of Customs chief operating officer Manuel Mamaril, even as he ordered the official's dismissal from service.

"If evidence warrants, after further investigation, to raise complaint should be filed against him," Marcelo said in a marginal note in his Sept. 23 order dismissing Mamaril.

Assistant Ombudsman Francis Sucaldito refused the order to the press prior to its promulgation.

In a statement, Sucaldito said that Marcelo was ordered dismissed when they found out he had an asset of more than P1.1 million in 1998 when his annual salary then was only P417,822.

Although he had "no other legitimate sources of income," he was also found to have spent P625,000 on property improvements that same year.

Likewise, between 2004 and 2000, his bank of the Philippine Islands Mamaril transactions showed he had incurred average balances for the year 1999.

Mamaril's lawyer, Third Division Chair Candelaria Legaspi threw out Garcia's motion to delay arraignment "for lack of merit."

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The SSS Short-term loan penalty

Attention! All SSS Members

CONDONATION PROGRAM is now open!

If you are a member with past due loan account with the SSS whether salary, calamity, emergency, educational, study-now pay later plan, vocational/technical and Y2k loans, here's your chance to keep your account current. Simply avail yourself of the penalty condonation program starting October 1, 2004 until September 30, 2005.

WHO ARE ENTITLED TO THIS CONDONATION?

Borrowers who are delinquent in the payment of their monthly loan amortizations as of 30 September 2004 including those with final claims whose contingency and lay-over fall within the availment period.

WHAT ARE THE CONDITIONS?

Availment period is from 01 October 2004 to 30 September 2005.

Payment of arrears outstanding principal and interest may be made in partial or in full during the availment period.

The amount of penalties to be condoned is proportionate to the amount of arrears paid. For example, if all arrears are paid, then all corresponding penalties are condoned. If only 50% of arrears are paid, then only 50% of penalties are condoned. The remaining penalty will continue to accumulate penalties.

If the remaining arrears are subsequently paid during the availment period, the accumulated penalties are condoned.

Borrowers shall be allowed to apply for short-term member loans only after two (2) years from the date of the last approved maximum member loan.

A borrower who pays at least P500 will be eligible to participate in the (Mabuhayan) Incentive Program, the winner of which will be entitled to a P15,000 discount from his liabilities.

Mechanics of the DAP:

Delinquency cumulative totaling but hundred (400) or P5,000 and above shall be rated off to borrowers area avail of the condonation program.

The borrower is entitled to one (1) raffle entry for every P500 payment to be assigned by a computer-generated system.

A borrower can only win twice for the entire condonation period.

One hundred (100) winners or P5,000 each will be drawn each quarter.

The prize shall be applied to the borrower's loan balance, if any, the excess shall be paid to the borrower.

All employees may avail of the condonation program but shall be disqualified as participants in the quarterly drawn.

HOW CAN A MEMBER AVAIL OF THE CONDONATION PROGRAM?

Borrower shall fill up an Application for Penalty Condonation Form.

Borrower shall be issued Statement of Account (SOA) and Payment Reference Form (SSS-F) stamped "With Application for Condonation of Penalty" on both documents.

Payment may be made through any SSS authorized collecting banks, SSS Collecting Department in Quezon City or at selected SSS Branches.

Copy of proof of payment (OR & SOA) shall be submitted to the nearest SSS Branch in his/her locality.

SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM

Apply at your nearest SSS branch NOW!

You can also download an application form from our web site.

Big mental execs assured of full gov't support by DENR

By Veh C. Contreras

IMADO CITY—Environment Secretary Mahmud Debatsar on Thursday assured big mining executives here that he fully supports the revival of what he called "one of the most misunderstood sectors" that could stimulate rapid growth in the country's economic turnaround.

Aside from citing the need to "educate" the public on the "best practices" that reduce the environmental impacts of modern mining, Debatsar also cited signed in the Supreme Court in reverse in January 2004 ruling that limited foreign participation in the industry.

A reversion of the ruling would help a "developing" industry attract up to $5 billion to $8 billion in direct investments just on the first year and could attract $2 billion per succeeding year he said at the "Investor's Night" outside of the 3.1st annual Metro Industry and Environment Conference at Camp Aguinaldo.

"I will not argue on the legal issues [of the case in the Supreme Court], but we cannot deny the fact that the reversion of the ruling will deliver billions of dollars to our economy," he told an audience that included Philippine Chamber of Mines president Benjamin Philip Romualdez.

Citing 7.1, the Supreme Court last Jan. 27 declared as unconstitutional certain provisions of the Philippine Mining Act of 1995 as well as in implementing rules and regulations that allow the execution of service contracts with foreign-owned corporations for the exploration, development and exploitation of the country's mineral resources.

The high court en banc then ruled that the Constitution limits only to technical and financial assistance the extent of foreign participation in large-scale mining.

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has since filed an appeal through Solicitor General Alfredo Benipayo, who asked the tribunal to consider the adverse economic effects of the ruling.

"The big investments we are expecting may not push through," Debatsar said, when asked by reporters of the representatives if the DENR has the government's support to "expose" local government officials and even Church leaders, who often lead grassroots opposition to mining projects, to technologies that have allowed the country's major mining firms to operate safely for decades.

Referring to the pollution and other ecological horrors caused by mining firms in the last decade, Debatsar argued that "the mistakes of some of our companies in the past should not be used to judge the whole industry."

Attended by some 300 Filipino and foreign mining executives, employees, and industry regulators, the various speeches held on Thursday for the "initial" mining operations, including several quarries and processing plants, as well as those who develop forests in their host locals.

METRO

2D2 SUERTRES FOUR DIGIT
MEGALOTTO 6/45

Edna Ester G. Dionisio
Assistant Editor Emma B. Bitos

No guns for police vs protesters

By Nancy C. Carvajal

THE GIST

The new director to police forces assigned to watch over three schools in Makati City—the Philippine Public Safety College, Region Police Office Director Avelino Razon Jr. told the increasing public indignation over Tuesday's bloody dispersal of students at Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac.

The directive prohibits police from carrying firearms and from using tear gas to arrest protesters.

"Only Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) members will be allowed to bring firearms," the NCRPO chief said.

Razon gave the order to all NCRPO district director personalities after nine policemen who took part in the violent dispersal of striking workers in Central Luzon were found probable for gunpowder burns.

Investigators said the nine policemen in Tarlac were found positive for gunpowder burns in their hands in an acquaintance examination.

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Razon ordered them to undergo competence officers from their respective areas to supervise civil disturbance operations, act as negotiators, and teach how to talk leaders of the mass action to keep harmony in the ranks.

He added that SWAT members would be deployed only to assist the crowd dispersal management team of the local police, and to help quell any violence.

The SWAT team was also advised to seek the guidance of the district leaders assigned to the area before taking any dispersal action.

"We will make sure that police personnel and other groups who want to take advantage of the situation would not be able to disrupt peaceful mass actions," Razon added.

The NCRPO also promised to provide cars and police teams to ensure the safety of the marchers, and to coordinate with the Traffic Management Group to lessen traffic congestion at the demonstration sites.

"I reiterated to the policemen the presence of maximum tolerance," Razon said.

But the mass actions should be kept within the bounds of its laws, he warned authorities.

Razon added that his primary concern is to maintain peace and order and ensure the normal run of business in Metro Manila.

Early Xmas in store for Makati's seniors

By Ruth L. Navarro

WHETHER they will use it to buy medicine or at shopping centers, Makati's senior citizens will receive their annual cash gift from the city government in mid-December.

The P1,000 each gift is given to senior citizens who have signed up for the city's ELC card program.

Mabuti has a total of 40,000 senior citizens.

Some 26,995 ELC card holders under age the first batch of recipients in the coming Dec.

"We want Makati senior citizens to feel like part of the income in spite of limited times," said Mabuti Mayor Jejomar Binay.

"We hope that this assistance will help relieve them to some extent," he added.

The cash gift will be distributed in their respective barangay halls or sports centers through the senior citizens' federation.

The ELC card provides the holder's family with up to P5,000 in emergency cases such as hospitalization or accident.

The card is exclusive to all senior citizens and residents of Makati.

It is in addition to Republic Act 9257 or the Expanded Senior Citizens Act.

The cash gift distribution program began in 2003.

REMEMBRANCE OF CHRISTMASES PAST
An armored display lorry bearing Pinoy Christmas expected by CCID store planners opened yesterday to the Greenhills Shopping Center.

₱4M up in smoke as 2 fires hit Quiapo

By Lala B. Salvador

TWO FIRES hit the Quiapo area yesterday within hours of each other, destroying one pawnshop and causing P4 million worth of property.

The first fire hit the Dominga Compound in Dr. Santos Street and destroyed 20 houses, leaving 300 families homeless. Damage was estimated at P2 million.

Cynthia Ignacio, who owned the house where the fire allegedly started, suffered P10,000 burns on her right leg in the incident.

The fire started at 1:11 a.m. yesterday and was put out four hours later.

Firefighters had a difficult time getting to the scene of the blaze because of the narrow streets leading to the area.

Investigators suspect that it was started by a candle that fell from a bedside table.

A few hours later, another fire destroyed a row of 18 apartments along Bilibid Viejo Street even as it was first reported around 10:51 a.m. at the ceiling of an apartment owned by a Dr. Jose Alberto. Property loss was pegged at around P2 million after the fire was extinguished at 2:21 this a.m.

There have been no casualties in the two fires.

Just last week, two people were injured when a big fire hit a compound at E. Rodriguez Street and destroyed 10 houses.

New raps vs building contractors, designers

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE OWNER of the Building has filed criminal charges against the contractors and designers of his building that was found to have structural deficiencies.

Rajah Muncadhan filed charges of reckless imprudence resulting in damage to property and serious physical injury and violation of the National Building Code, typical are before Makati City and Albert Chua, and structural engineer Rodolfo Sy, after he failed to construct the building in Tondo, Manila.

The building collapsed on July 23, hours after it was seen sliding. Nobody was hurt in the incident.

Muncadhan also sought charges against the architects and engineers.

In 1996, Muncadhan hired to be constructed a building with seven floors and mezzanine.

Sy then recommended to a structural designer. Chua was hired as building contractor upon Sy's recommendation.

Investigating prosecutor Raul Bautista ordered the case transferred, after a case filed in the City Prosecutor's Office to Manila last week.

In his complaint, Muncadhan sought to hold Sy, Chua and Co criminally liable for the collapse of the eight-story building that was built at a cost of P35 million in 1999.

Muncadhan said he suffered physical injuries, alleging that he suffered 3 bone attack upon hearing about the collapse.

Anti-porn advocates meet for annual confab

By Tarra V. Quismundo

AN ALLIANCE of anti-pornography advocates gathered in Manila yesterday to shame strength in their pursue their battle against the flood.

More than 100 members of the Philippine Alliance Against Pornography (PAAP) held its partner nongovernment organization held its annual anti-porn conference at the Manila Day Hall yesterday morning. The meeting also gave recognition to women in their country's most vocal fighters of smut and obscenity.

On its ninth year of spreading awareness of pornography, the PAAP with the Coalition for Children and Morality Concerned Women of the Philippines, and Stop Trafficking of Filipino Foundation Inc., gave a day-long lesson on child pornography as its consequences.

"We need to heighten the level of awareness and should have the strongest community action, where everyone should be involved to," said Cindy Dalisay Ang, PAAP president and Dean of Education at the Trinity College of Quezon City.

"It is not mere viewing, but having sex through the computer, that's why policies are still up to pay ₱1.50 to ₱5 per minute, depending on the provision of sex that's used," explained Sen. Loren Madrigal Legarda (PAAP) said in partner nongovernment organization held its annual anti-porn conference at the Manila Day Hall yesterday morning. The meeting also gave recognition to women in their country's most vocal fighters of smut and obscenity.

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'Honorable' tag a misnomer

ON TARGET
Rosemary Tinio

THE HOUSE of Representatives has restored the full P76 million in pork barrel for each of its members in the 2005 national budget. By doing that, it violated its promise to neither "pork" for each member in the most efficient.

Are you surprised at all? Since when have congressmen, by and large, kept their promises?

Despite the "Honorable" tag before their names, congressmen are dishonorable people. Of course, there are exceptions. Congressmen know who among them deserve the "Honorable" title.

The master of Congress should be the house speaker, who, nowadays, exudes that decisive even human image.

Federico Panaligan Jr., 23, a security driver, went to a liquor store (pero hiya siyang) shortly after midnight a few days ago after a day's work.

Although Panaligan's job requires beware, he is not a security guard. His vehicle delivers beverages but is a rolled one, to a child, he underwent colon surgery and doctors made an artificial opening in his stomach for his waste to come out. Instead of a colostomy bag, Panaligan straps a diaper around his waist.

While Panaligan was eating lugaw with a friend, PO3 Jonathan Moreno and PO3 Jonathan Cadoz of the Quezon City Community Precinct 10 dropped by the joint. They ordered the lugaw on Panaligan's friend.

According Panaligan, the two cops tried to frisk him for a hidden weapon. The bicycle driver asked the cops to frisk him elsewhere. He didn't want other customers to see him wearing a diaper.

The cops punched him in the stomach, slapped him on the nape, and kicked him. They pushed him into a tricycle to take him to their precinct.

Inside the tricycle, Panaligan allowed the cops to frisk him. Sure enough, they found nothing. But they still beat him up. They confirmed to beat him up some after they knew about Panaligan's condition. They even pressed white on him so they led him inside the detention cell. One bathtub could thrash cops for.

Why are there so many abusive cops (tuck from training school)? Because rookies were not taught to respect civilians as the police academy.

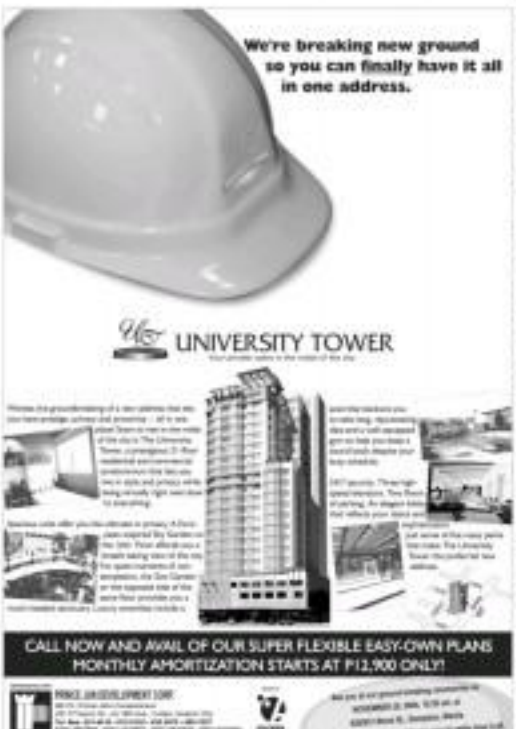
They should drop the Philippine National Police motto, "Service and protect." Most police now think they're the lords and masters of ordinary civilians.

A continued government reform sexual promotional police advisor Gabriel Claudio of leaving for my when she refused to perform a sexual act he had in mind.

If the charge is true, she performs Claudio for another Cabinet member who proves sleazy sex. I know she set fired a high-class call girl told me this Cabinet member spanked her buttocks in a prelude to the sex act.

But the woman who made the accusation against Claudio doesn't live at the address she gave the police. So what does that make of her and her accusation?

Gene Boyd: Not yet a sunset; a young leaf dies



(Front page 1)

end who, at 20, an age when most would still be dreaming big dreams, had already made a name for his remarkable photographs.

Nonetheless, if that dream had been blown to bits by his killer, Gene Boyd left enough of his work to show himself to be truly true—an artist in disguise. (His lyrical shot of the mid-January sunrise in Pasay, Brgy. 76 in Cuneta, Davao Oriental, was chosen for the booklet greeting card.)

Not yet a sunset

But if a picture speaks a thousand words, the last one Gene Boyd took in life could more with relief it did not show.

It seemed a prelunchtime, haunted shot. The moment was not right.

It was Taiwan when Cha-ching-cue—not yet a runner—was at its most blinding, coloring the scene with upbeat reds.

The sunset in Atlixco became beguiling on a clear day, as it was that Friday. An artist would have realized a few minutes more, when the sun had sunk almost halfway burning red, painting the sea, like clouds and the city with a magnificent burst of colors to interest that even Paul Gauguin would have found (like) it to replicate.

But a camera could have captured the moment in all its glory.

What then was Gene Boyd saying in the picture that has become an eloquent final statement?

This is a question that cannot be answered by David Hemmings' character in that post-modernist '60s movie, "Blowup," he simply enlarging a picture. (The classic line was a photographer answering what that dead light on a ceiling.)

It means one to risk wading into the dangerous waters of speculation, because it was his photos (when himself who was killed).

And the mystery here is not the number: It is the picture itself.

In 15 minutes

Witnesses said that at 5:30 that tragic afternoon, Gene Boyd left Bebot's Lodge where he and fellow Davao expat coffee-table Arguillo had checked in that morning (after staying the past two days at Pensionarpens Inn inside the PEW-composed because Bebot's was full). Fifteen minutes later, he was dead.

It was unfathomable that the young man who sat in the chair next to me in my living room—we rarely drank, this morning last September, when he and Cayol came to visit an hour before flying back to Davao City would return to Ado only to spend the last three days of his life here.

Gene Boyd told me about the photojournalism fee-ban in Amsterdam where he was the lone representative of the Philippines, and I told him how proud I was and that he deserved it. He asked for a cigarette: I gave him a pack. Despite my protestations, he took photos of me and, in my nightgown, face unwashed, but unwashed.

Before they left it seemed important to him to get my mobile phone number and to give me his. Then he kissed me on the cheek and I kissed him on the forehead.

"Magpakabait ka. Ite (Be good). You have a bright future ahead of you," I said.

I saw them out and when I went back inside, I felt an inexplicable sadness at seeing that he had left the pack of cigarettes I had given him.

I picked it up and ran to the gate but they had gone.

That was the last time I saw him.

The route he took

Now he is gone forever, and I wanted to know how he died and the circumstances of his life on that sun-kissed south where they shoot young photojournalists, and what he was trying to say with his last picture.

Following the route he took, a short cut to the port, I negotiated the unfinished Bailey bridge left of that post up to the second floor where, with the camera I was carrying, I could fit all the witnesses statements exactly as they appeared in that last frame.

I took an imaginary shot and walked back, all the time trying to look at first as Commissioned Gene Boyd would do, to the exact spot where he fell, as pointed to me earlier by a police officer.

It took all of 26 minutes: the route have been in such a hurry, someone not the kind of photo-shoot for someone who had a love affair with other thing and coming out.

Wrong place and time

Why was Gene Boyd killed?

Whether they came to the wrong place at the wrong time for the wrong reason," said a member of the local coffee-table team. Someone was apparently to keep an eye on people who come and went, especially at this most when, according to authorities, 21 people have been killed in a span of 14 days.

The pattern is said made of the killings—acting the shots by the hooded assailants who were armed bomb-fitted, have led the military to give credence to persistent rumors of a new generation of Abu beyond escape.

As the rumors go, members of this dreaded group were to go up are required to kill each with a priest, or any Christian, preferably a non-native.

"It's like he had a premonition," another witness said of Gene Boyd. "The whole day he was in a hallowed, or restless."

Maybe there was something saying, they said, but Gene Boyd and Cayol (not Boyd hardly) spoke not even the their meal or separate to this.

Like any other young man with an artist's soul, Gene Boyd was also a rebel, who thought that life was all about searching to one's own best.

Resentful

By accounts, he was watching TV when there was a sudden power outage: together with other guests, he went down to the hotel restaurant.

A colleague to Davao said it was before the power outage that Gene Boyd said a text message to a friend there. He resented (meant) that he had to leave (and forego) watching his favorite afternoon cartoons because he had to take pictures of the sunset the colleague said.

Gene Boyd supposedly ordered soft drink and apparently agitated—taking a sip, going out to the front of the hotel where Arguillo was waiting for somebody to collect them, encountering to take another sip, and going out the front again.

"They were had some kind of discussion in Davao," said another member of the staff. "We could hear it but we could not understand what they were saying. Then he left and then later we hear it the shot."

Angry soldier

At the crime scene, less than 100 meters from the hotel, a soldier angered by the sight of one so young so senselessly killed was heard cursing regardless for not making accompaniment with the solidary. "We come here to this place and you don't even give justice. We could have provided you transport."

Only days earlier a Marine had been assaulted, fatally killed, with a shot to the head, in his hospital off-passenger vehicle.

But authorities are strongly considering the angle that the killing was connected to the graft and corruption case filed this June some working on.

"They could have found on some people, who caught the method of the Abu Sayyaf," a soldier said.

A report that reached the police was cited a "big" politician (not in Ado), angry after his application denied, took it out on Gene Boyd.

"You don't do that kind of story as a small place like Ado where people notice what you do," police said.

According to the hotel staff, the two had gone to such places as Jacksons and Bridal, even as far as Guak, by Batinderan, taking video footage and still photos of houses, buildings and government projects.

They were doing documentation, and a coverage—not the kind of work that could inspire someone dreaming of becoming a Robert Capa.

Winter mourning

"He was like one we asked us if we needed photos of Cayetano's children," said Inquirer, now with the European Press Photo Agency. "I'll miss him."

The two met when they were both working at the Inquirer.

Gene Boyd shot good pictures...the veteran members of the Philippine Center for Photojournalists nominated him for the Sanchez Award, whose photo exhibit set to open next month will feature his photographs. The name exhibit will be shown in Singapore in February.

It was winter when Gene Boyd entered in Amsterdam. He is probably asked an official of the sponsoring organization, the World Press Photo Asia-Europe Foundation. "Why are all the trees dead?"

It is winter once more in Amsterdam, where Foundation coordinator Wendy Le Cocq said, "Today, the trees are full of leaves. It is as if all the trees are mourning, and with us are leaves."

Here in Ado, trees young leaves fall in the blazing light of the setting sun.

Sunset mourns on Gene Boyd's final farewell

DAVAO CITY—Dear photojournalist Gene Boyd (Lumawig was laid to rest at around 9 a.m. yesterday just as the sun was setting.

But in Ado, Ado, where he was shot dead a week ago, the sunset was colorless, as it was setting.

Lumawigs family, other relatives, colleagues and friends converged at the funeral home (Inscription for Boyd's) made officialized by his uncle, Fr. Edgar Wenceslao.

Police in Ado have formed a special panel called Task Force Lumawig and have filed charges against suspects who are still at large.

But Mindoblitzen editor Carolyn Arguillo suggested that the panel be renamed Task Force Sunset.

"(It) should solve not just the death of Gene Boyd but also the deaths of so many of necessary circumstances... It should save Ado from," she said.

Lumawigs father, Boyet, also a photojournalist, talked about these misadventures in life.

"When I dance, he dances..." the father said. "Why did he die and I'm still here? ... It is God's special gift. There is a reason for everything..."

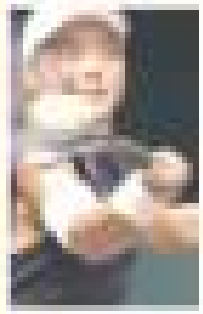
Boyet Lumawig also thanked those who had helped his family. **PETE Mendoza-Ramos**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2004

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SPORTS

WHAT'S INSIDE



MONTAÑA VS GRANNY

PBL leaders part ways today

ADDICT Holids guard Magnus Manlangit swats to midcourt while drives past Sports Etc center Mark Andaya.

MONTAÑA Powerdrop may be the hottest team right now, but Granny Goose coach Ato Tan is cautiously optimistic.

"Montaña has a well-rounded lineup. They're the strongest team so far, in terms of individual skills, they have the edge. But we have the advantage when it comes to teamwork," said Tan.

Indeed, Granny Goose has been performing beyond expectations.

And Tan has every reason to be confident when his ninepeat team tackles Montaña for sole leadership in the PBL Open Championship at 4 p.m. today at the Makati Coliseum.

Team Jewels coach Robert Sweet agrees that Che Ewebbie can measure up to his seasoned mates. "I saw how they play and they're very physical. They've got a good lineup and they have good players to match up with my boys," observed Sweet.

Earlier, Addict Makati-Manila will try to extend its winning run to three against Pelicans Pilipinas at 2 p.m.

STANDINGS	W	L
Granny Goose	3	0
Montaña	3	0
Magnolia-Ice Master	2	1
Air Philippines	2	1
Cebu Gems-Sta. Lucia	2	1
Addict Makati-Manila	1	2
Pelicans Pilipinas	1	2
E-TEN-Laguna	0	3

TODAY'S GAMES
(Makati Coliseum)
2 p.m. — Addict Makati-Manila vs Pelicans Pilipinas
4 p.m. — Granny Goose vs Montaña

Montaña will open the 4 p.m. straight vs. the league pivotal title contenders, hoping to draw up games from Jun Chua Salvador, Mark Campos and Al Magpayo.

"I hope my veterans would step up even more," added Chua.

But unlike Montaña, several players have been stepping up for the Tan Clan, among them Andy Loong, Chris Lutsko, Dennis Cuevas, JB Quitalan and Tan Gonzales.

"I hope we'll be consistent, particularly against Loong (no wins yet) first round," added Tan, who's vying for a 4th straight triumph.

The opener, rematch of cup play Granny Goose subdued Bonta Oco-Lorenzo, 75-69, while Montaña prevailed over the Philippians, 74-66, last Thursday.

Addict Makati-Manila will try to continue its winning form with Jeraldine Ibanez and Beverly Ranada in the helm.

Meanwhile, newcomers, will look on veterans Cherrie Tolentino and Pil Ann Anthony Wade. Inquirer

Paragua, Barbosa settle for quick draw in World Junior chess tilt

GRANDMASTER-BUST Mark Paragua and National Master Oliver Barbosa yesterday settled for a 35-move draw of their Petroff Defense encounter at the start of the 43rd World Junior Chess Championships in Cebu, Manila.

Prior to yesterday's match, the two Filipinos didn't have a pairing in the first round.

However, National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP) president Go Teng Kok reasoned Fide Delegate Cesar "Sid" Mendoza who made the pairs possible.

"Mangyo po siyempre kapo kami (applies on Mark Jr. was still top-seeded in the section, so we agreed to a draw)," said Barbosa.

Flanking the Paragua, Mark Paragua's mother, also expressed her thanks to the NCFP head for paving the way for the match to reserve the two Filipinos-slots in Thursday.

The champion automatically gets a GM title.

Marlon Bernardino

Fil-Am soldier killed in Iraq buried with honors in Clark

CLARK FIELD, Pampanga—A Filipino-American soldier killed in action in Iraq last month was given full military burial honors yesterday in his place where he was raised.

US Army Spc. Maurice Mark Fortuna, who served with the 2nd Infantry Division, was killed in Ar Ramadi on Oct. 29, a US Embassy statement said.

His unit posthumously awarded the fourth-highest US military award for gallantry in action, the Bronze Star, as well as the Purple Heart, Army Commendation and the Good Conduct medals during

MANILA LADIES GOLF

Agojo snares crown; Regan ties for fifth

AGOJO shows the form that netted her a four-under 68 and a five-point victory in the Manila Ladies Cup yesterday

By Manny R. Castillo

GWEN Jane pursuant no chance, Jaynee Agojo capped her 2004 Manila Ladies Cup romp by firing a four-under-par 68 yesterday for a five-point victory over a hot-finishing Carmelenia Villaluz-Regan.

Agojo gunned down five birdies and fashioned a flawless round with a bogey on the 14th to finish with 38 points and 170 overall under the Modified scoring system. In stroke play she would've had an 80 under even the far more severe of Mitch Hunt.

The spearhead of the Manila Area circuit team, Jaynee won the second open stroke at her young career at the expense of Villaluz-Regan, who (meanwhile) the best around of the event, a 67 worth 35 points, to finish alone in second with 165 points.

Former national team member Aileen Rose Tan rallied with a 71 for points and a 160 total to exchange third place over Tracy Lucas and Anya Tampinco.

Lucas, in second after the first two rounds, slided to a 76 (32 points) and finished tied for fourth with Tampinco at 159.

Regan de Guzman, the 12-year-old wonder kid, bounced back from a second-round 84 with a 71 and clinched a share of fifth spot with Mater Salinas (73-68 at 152 points).

Agojo birdied Nos. 4, 7 and 8 and had a five-under card after birdieing the two par-5s on the back side. On 14th and the 15th. On the 16th, she pushed an 80-yard sand wedge into the right bunker then missed a three-footer for par.

"I was so happy it has been a good year," said the jazzy 30-year-old, who will start preparing for the 80 Ladies' tournament set in the third week of January next year.

Agojo won the 1998 Open but January and put on a sparkling performance for Team Philippines that finished tied for 18th in the World Amateurs in Puerto Rico, where she shot the lowest final-round score, in 66.

Dr. Guzman, the kid with the game of a future superstar, was four under after the last of her five birdies on the par-3 14th.

Beth Manchanee (127 points), Ruth Calapatia (124) and Jo Rainvale (220) bagged the top three places in Class A.

Joyce Sevilla won Class B with 121 points followed by Gilda Medestomas (114) and Irene Arruda (102). Rosalind Yabo recaled 46 points to win Class C with Norma Malleterat placing second.

SPORTSWATCH

PCCr cagers leave today for Taipei

THE PHILIPPINE College of Criminology basketball team known for "Manny Pacquiao to represent the country in the 3rd Gardenia Cup basketball championship in Taipei, Taiwan. The week-long tournament starts tomorrow and will end on Nov. 27. Handled by national coach Jimmy Tan, PCCr is one of two teams participating in the tournament held in honor of Brother Shenkovich, Hsin's secretary general from 1967 to 2003. The other participating teams are host Chinese-Taipei, Japan, Korea, India, Dubai, Syria, Iran and Kuwait. The members of the 19-PCCr team, which is sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Jun C. Vicente Construction, Healthy Options and Burlington, are Jed Mier, Allan Ram, Ricky Nicolasora, Rafael Dino, Cesar Evangelista, Ervin Cairo Ramirez, Brian Gail, McDonald Gamino, Ronnie Tan, Earnie Ronny Mendoza and Marvel Bonzalet. Tan will be assisted by Eric Ringcar Chiong Mendoza. "We're very grateful to PCCr, especially to alfredo chiong's Rolando Hernandez for rewarding in our sufferers all these years to join the tournament," said BAP secretary general Graham Lim.

NCR Little Olympics begin today

SEN. MIRIAM L. "Lito" Lapid is expected to inspire some 1,000 student-athletes and officials when the Senate sports committee chair graces the opening ceremonies of the 2004 Mini-Little Olympics National Capital Region at 8 am. today at the Rizal Memorial track oval. Lapid will be joined by Bembi Philippines Inc. officials led by NBA brand manager Michelle Cato and sports stars who've first risen to prominence in the 1996 edition of the Mini Olympics. MOI, the high school and elementary inspires together with their respective schools will vie for over P400,000 worth of sport's equipment and educational assistance when they compete in athletics, badminton, chess, football, gymnastics, swimming, track-and-field, tennis, table tennis, taekwondo and volleyball.

UA-Pampanga, LSQC gun for win

UNIVERSITY of the Assumption-Pampanga and Lourdes School of Business (SB) by Mary Mount would attempt today to make it two wins in as many outings in the PBA Open Basketball Championship for Elementary Schools at the Old Plant Pediatrics and Rizal Technological University Gymnasium, both holding 2:45 cards, deposits the wide road at 9:30 a.m. (St. Peter (3-0) takes on PAU (1-1) at 1:30 p.m. while LSQC (2-0) battles the Union Pediatrics, who upset a 2-0 victim, at 3 p.m. Assumption College and Lourdes School of Quezon City, both winners after their clashes, collide in the other counter match at 4:30 p.m. Chiang Kai Shek College, the only winless winners squad, battles host Centro Escolar University (2-1) at noon. The two-BREAK, counterpart of the NASSA athletics area circle 2004 season, is sponsored by Gerolaro chocolates.

Bad Boys badminton at Libis

THE COUNTRY'S top male badminton stars are expected to hit the courts in the Bad Boys tournament at the Libis Badminton Center on Dec. 10 and 11. Prizes P70,000 in cash and gifts. Entry fee of P1,000 per player. Interested players may call the Bad Boys hotlines at 8920741 and 0917-8301888 for more information. Deadline is on Nov. 30. Chiang Kai Shek College, the only winless seniors squad, battles host Centro Escolar University (2-1) at noon. The two-BREAK, counterpart of the NASSA athletics area circle 2004 season, is sponsored by Gerolaro chocolates.

Ateneo hurdler Burlington endorser

ATENEO Track and cross country runner Nonie Burlington is the biggest beneficiary when the Philippine Sports Commission and the Philippine Track and Field Association agrees in February next year. The SEA Management of Commission Sonny Dimbungay-student, who was chosen by Burlington to endorse its next brandy Ginsu 237 vodka, running line, released this month on the track when he won the gold medal in the UAAP juniors pentathlon event in 2004 and graduated previously in the pole vault event in the sophomore year with the school's team last season. Burgler's use of Ginsu 237 during the UAAP season will allow Burlington to gauge the benefits of win a paddling. It has interested his product athletes' fast from wear and tear.

Barracks tops Criterium race

FORMER national team member Sandy Barracks captured last Sunday's event, Mercor Criterium race, beating Joel Suarez and Marlon Dalandan in a down-the-wire finish at the Senior Citizens Central Elliptical Circle. Barracks negotiated the 42 laps race distance in 1 hour 16:02, over Suarez in 1 14:18 and third was Dalandan in 1 14:18. The event will last four Sundays starting Nov 21. More than 100 cyclists participated in this event with the first 600 registrants given T-shirts courtesy of Mercor.

UBCC champions party tonight

SAN MIGUEL Strong Ice will hold for the championship of the recent Universal Realty Contract Championship & Beyond Fest hold at the Casino Filipino Amphitheater in Parañaque City. The Championship Party will be held at 9 p.m. today at Kasa Uno Pueblo. At the honored are Jeanney Reigard Delfin Concepcion, who is the Dan-Ming Strong Ice pitweight champion; Lolito P. Mangalang of Bacolod, featherweight champion; Black "The Madman" Sangian of Manila, bantamweight champion; Alan Marcos Cruz Dalisay from Tiaong, welterweight champion; and Filipino Dandilao of Bulacan, Ice Dancing Duo Tournament champion. Winners of the UBCC's Beyond Fest photo contest will also be announced during the party.

La Salle Games a success

THE NCR-LA Salle Games 2004, a biennial sports gathering of high school student-athletes from La Salle-owned and supervised schools all over the country, were successfully held recently at the La Salle Greenhills Campus. This event, which featured eight sports, was participated in by 14 institutions, namely La Salle College Antipolo, De La Salle Greenhills, De La Salle-College Lipa, De La Salle-Dasmariñas, La Salle Greenhills, University of St. La Salle-Integrated School Bacolod, La Salle-Academy-Iligan, St. Joseph High School-Bacolod, Academy of St. John-Cavite, San Beda's-Integrated School-Cainta, Our Lady of the Holy Rosary School-Cavite, St. Benilde School-Bacolod, John Bosco College-Mindy City, Sunjan del Rosario and De La Salle-Candelaria.

Bakbakan semifinals heat up

THE 10-ball phase of the 9-ball semifinals for the Gatorade 2004 8-Ding Ko Ding Dong Derby heats up at 7 p.m. today at the Ali sports complex. Eliminations survivors headed for a collision course to qualify for the championship Joey Lazo (1-0) of San Pablo City and Bulong de los Santos (0-1) of Mandaluyong City. The Philippine Navy will be held at 9 p.m. today at Kasa Uno Pueblo. At the honored are Jeanney Reigard Delfin Concepcion, who is the Dan-Ming Strong Ice pitweight champion; Lolito P. Mangalang of Bacolod, featherweight champion; Black "The Madman" Sangian of Manila, bantamweight champion; Alan Marcos Cruz Dalisay from Tiaong, welterweight champion; and Filipino Dandilao of Bulacan, Ice Dancing Duo Tournament champion. Winners of the UBCC's Beyond Fest photo contest will also be announced during the party.

Cavite isn't derby status P2M

THE COST of participants to the Cavite 7-Coach International Derby, the 14th anniversary presentation of Cavite Coliseum and Derby Cavitex continues to swell. More than 100 trainers and breeders are expecting action in the event on Nov. 29, Dec. 1 and 3. Among the early birds are DMD Cavite 1-Coach Derby International champions William Co and Pia Cortobella. At stake is a guaranteed prize of P2 million for a P20,000 entry fee. Hosts include Governor Ireneo Remilla and lawyer Rudy Bañal. For enrollment reservations, contact OR 09 05-1801, 046-9709671 and 046-9708838 (look for Vicente Bautista).

Singapore team tops ultimate frisbee meet

BASE1 week finally paid off for hosts Singapore as it emerged overall champion of the 1st Jubilee Bukidnon Pangasi International Ultimate Flisbee Tournament held Nov. 13-14 at the Manila Polo Club, Makati City.

Bulldozing the overwhelming host, Singapore Freak Show overpowered Shanghai House of Odins, 15-10, in the final match Sunday afternoon.

"It's such a blast to be part of the team. It was a good thing we played solid defense and managed to take control of the match. Shanghai was a tough nut to crack," said Singapore Freak Show head coach Tom Dalden.

Shanghai House, which was weakened after losing Lan Mclintock and Stephanie Cachier to injuries in Day One, finished second, while Korea Ultimate National Team and Hongkong Irish were tied for third place.

Top lined Lee Hock Jebellion A. managed to land fifth in the overall ranking.

Inquirer Badminton and Globe PLATINUM present
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The 1st National Inter-Club PLATINUM CUP FINALS
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Player's Best
Pulong Bunlud
Premiere City Club
Valle Verde Country Club
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Catch the explosive action on Nov 20 & 21 at the Market! Market! Activity Center
MARKET! MARKET!
SCHEDULE
Day 1 November 20
10 AM Registration
12 NN Opening Ceremonies
1 - 9 PM Games
Day 2 November 21
10 AM - 1 pm Games
3 PM Semi-Finals
5 PM Finals
7 PM Awarding Ceremonies
Mizuno
Philippine Airlines
URBANSPA
GOSEN
incaltex

2.4M couples living together sans 'I dos,' study shows

By Blanche S. Rivera

AROUND 2.4 million Filipinos are living together without benefit of marriage, many of them in their early 20s and a third of them classified as "very religious," a study published by the Philippine Population Association said.

The study published in the Philippine Population Review, also said the decline in the number of Filipinos who get married because of economic reasons.

One out of five Filipinos in a relationship, or 19 percent, were cohabiting. About 70 percent of those aged 30-34 years old who are in a relationship are living together without getting married.

Only 27 percent of those who have ever been in a relationship were legally married as of 2000, marking an 8 percent drop from the 35 percent in 1998.

"The males, the lower educated and those who were not raised by both parents are more likely to cohabit than their counterparts," the study cited "New Path to Marriage: The Significance of Increasing Cohabitation in the Philippines," said.

Live-in arrangements were most prevalent in Eastern Visayas. Metro Manila ranks in the top five regions having the most number of cohabiting couples.

Many of those who have opted to cohabit with their partners are categorized as "very religious," or those attending church services more than once a week.

From 14 percent in 1990, the population of religious Filipinos living outside marriage rose to 21 percent in 2000.

"In the future, our young males and females will approve of live-in arrangements because of the more liberal attitude and economic reasons," UP Population Institute director Carmen Raymundo said yesterday during the launching of the 2004 Philippine Population Review at the UP Diliman.

Couples cite economic reasons, pregnancy, fear of conjugal fidelity, prevalence of divorces and the lack of necessity to solemnize as the reasons for skipping marriage and cohabiting, according to the study.

PDI columnist Rina David Global Media Awards winner

INQUIRER columnist Rina Jimenez-David has again been selected as the winner in the "Best Columnist" category in the 2004 Global Media Awards for Excellence in Population Reporting.

The Awards are given annually by the Population Institute, a private non-profit public interest group based in Washington, DC.

David last won the Award, in the same category, in 1995.

The Global Media Awards are "devoted to drawing attention to global population issues," honoring journalistic media institutions and organizations "who have contributed to covering issues of population problems through their journalistic endeavors in a meritorious manner."

Nominations for all 11 categories are accepted from all over the world, with the winners' works "characterized by a high quality of writing and factual reporting." David was nominated for the year's award by the Family Planning Organization of the Philippines.

An international panel of judges decides the winning entries. It is chaired by Rahul Singh, a respected journalist from India, and includes 1979 Nobel Peace Prize winner Dr. Norman Borlaug, former Mexican foreign secretary Jesus Dr. Ann Harris-Imser, Miguel Montes from Mexico, Mayumi Ueno-Godoy from Hawaii, and Hossam Issa Hassan from Egypt.

Jaime Isaac Ponce de Leon, Population Institute board member Victor Morgan, Media awards Trust Fund Chair Stephen Isaacs and Population Institute president Warren Pomeroy.

The prize in this year's Global Media Awards is participation in an all-expenses-paid study tour of Morocco. The awards ceremony will be held in Rabat on Dec 4.

David joined the Inquirer in 1988 as Opinion Editor and started her daily column "At Large" in 1991. Apart from being named "Best Columnist" in the 1995 Global Media Awards, she was also named one of "The Outstanding Women in the Nation's Service" (TOWNS) in the same year in the field of women's rights advocacy. She is the author of two books, "Betrayal of Trust," a compilation of her columns from 1988-1994, and "Nightmare Journeys," which told the stories of women survivors of trafficking. Her books were released in time for the launch of the Women's Month festivities. David also hosts the award-winning radio talk show "RSVone," produced by the Women's Media Circle and aired every Saturday over dzAR. Outside of her work in journalism, David is a recognized basic-sector leader in the women's movement and in reproductive health advocacy.

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GMA attends launch of eBay Philippines

By Cynthia D. Balana

SAN FRANCISCO (via PLDT)—Today, the world's online marketplace, yesterday announced the launch of eBay Philippines (www.ebay.ph), a new localized website designed to allow individuals and small businesses in the country to trade goods and services online.

The announcement was made shortly after a meeting between President Macapagal-Arroyo and Meg Whitman, president and chief executive officer of eBay Inc., at its campus in San Jose, California.

The President said eBay will be a boost to the development of exports, entrepreneurship at the grassroots level and growth in small-scale enterprises.

Together with investments in IT infrastructure, these constitute important pillars in the sustainable growth of the Philippine economy, she said.

"With the Philippines' strength in IT-enabled services and its strategic location, an entire eBay to take a close look at the potential of our country, for any future plans in establishing regional back operations here," the President told Whitman.

In response, Whitman said that eBay management was "thrilled" to welcome the President and vice Gerardo Jose Miguel Arroyo to the eBay campus there.

"To end the eBay global community already included thousands of members in the Philippines.

"We are excited to be able to bring them their own eBay site, where individuals and small businesses can trade with our millions of users around the world," Whitman said.

"We sincerely believe that eBay Philippines offers tremendous potential to help empower entrepreneurs in the Philippines, as well as create a sense of online community that exists among eBay members worldwide," he added.

Founded in 1995, eBay created a powerful platform for the sale of goods and services by a passionate community of individuals and businesses.

On any given day, there are millions of items across thousands of categories for sale on eBay. It enables trade on a local, national and international level with customized sites in markets around the world using an array of services, such as its payment solution provider.

The website is a helpful and reliable marketplace to buy and sell items using the Philippine peso. It features a simple format that allows new users to quickly and easily learn the eBay way of trading, wherein individuals and small businesses can list and sell their items on eBay.ph at no charge.

"The launch of eBay Philippines brings our successful online marketplace to a growing Internet market in Asia," said Bill Cobb, senior vice president of eBay International.

Send $20 more to keep RP afloat, GMA asks 7M Filipinos abroad

By Cynthia D. Balana

HOUSTON, California (via PLDT)—President Macapagal-Arroyo on Wednesday night (Thursday in Manila) appealed to more than seven million Filipinos abroad to increase remittances home by $20 a month to help keep the economy afloat.

Speaking during a cocktail reception hosted by the Bay Area Filipino community at the Hotel Hotel here, the President said the remittances play a major role in keeping the Philippine economy from sliding down.

"This is a big contribution we can do to your families but also for your Filipino. Can you just imagine what an additional $20 a month remittance can do to further uplift our nation?" the President asked.

The President said an increase by $20 in remittances by some million Filipinos abroad would amount to about $140 million a month, or $1.68 billion a year.

"Let's help each other and go beyond self-sufficiency. Because in the end, our concerted efforts will benefit an entire race from which a new generation of Filipinos will emerge to carry on a legacy of love for family, love for country and love for life," she said.

Official data put the $7.64 billion remitted to the Philippines last year, over $4.09% billion came from Filipinos in the United States.

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San Beda, UST dispute Ang Liga title today

CHAMPIONSHIP football action kicks off at the Philsports pitch in Pasig today when defending champion San Beda College takes on the University of Santo Tomas at 3 p.m. to decide the winner of the 2nd ang Liga tournament.

BBC coach Aris Caudilla will need to contend with UST mates Stoyan Beniny, Lord Jan Leggerini, Melvin Belgira and Paolo Acuna. But UST coach Ramsey Carpio will also have a hard time to beat Bede bosses national Dickie 23 members Michael Casas, Rolly Herrera, Tono Arcilla, Jeremiah Jose, Giggs Cuenca, Vaspan Richardson and Arthur James Taylor aside from "The Ball" Belgrand, however, remains the biggest threat to the Tigers.

It's a repeat of last year's finals which saw the Red Lions beat the Growling Tigers, 2-1.

Preliminary action at 2 p.m. has Game One Philippines Southwest Asian Games team of '91 taking on the current batch of next year's Red Lions to do battle once in Manila.

Pacquiao still lacks sparring

PACQUIAO

Arcilla, Chung arrange another title showdown

CHUNG Have mark returns a forehand against Joseph Victorino

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE GRUDGE match looms.

Alberto Arcilla, itching to settle a score against defending champion Chung Hwa mark, banged into the men's single finals after a dramatic 6-0, 0-7, 6-4 victory over a surprising tough Rolando Real Jr. yesterday in the 22nd PCA Open of the Philippine Columbian Association duals meet.

The country's No. 1 player gets a chance to get even with the Koreans, who made it to the finals almost trouble-free against 2002 champion Joseph Victorino, 6-2, 6-3.

The title rematch is set at 1 p.m. tomorrow.

"I will work very hard to prepare against him. I have learned my lesson and it will not happen again," said the 24-year-old Arcilla, who runs have zero-up against Chung last year only to fade and allow the Koreans to win the title in five sets.

Arcilla, the 2001 champ, said his time he's prepared to face the 26-year-old Chung.

But Chung, who won two silver medals in the 2002 Busan Asian Games, was also confident of clinching back-to-back titles after posting easy wins on the way to the finals.

In contrast, Arcilla endured hunger pains against lesser-known rivals, defeating 15-year-old Ralph Erickson in the third round.

But nobody expects the Bicol boat lander from Real, a long-time Davis Cup substitute. The time Arcilla needed two hours and 15 minutes to subdue Real, who fought hard mightily after losing the first set.

The 6'0 netminder from Dagupan, John Spurs, MILL Dunlop, Li-Fromm Jeuffret, Aye Village, 3Rd, Daily Inquirer CEL Little Lieutenant, Stronghold Insurance, Coca Cola, Via Miguel Beer, Phil. Star, TMY Philip, Lee Hsinsin Tyres, PIPE Philippines, Equitable PCIBank, Mercury Secondary, PCL Restaurant, Logistikman, Tele-Pinas and Shakespeare.

Tour Pilipinas qualifier up

QUALIFYING races for the 2005 Tour Pilipinas will be conducted on Dec. 7 and 8 in Batangas.

The first race will be a 105-kilometer mixed start race from Lian (to Lemery and Bauan to Alitagtag and a 40-km individual time trial from Balayan and also to Alitagtag on the second day.

The 2005 Tour will be run in April after Holy Week with 10 stages to the schedule to conform with Union Cyclist Internationale regulations, according to Tour Pilipinas chair Ben Lina, who is also president of the national federation of cycling—PhilCycling.

Eighty riders will take part in next year's Tour. They will be spread to four 10-teams.

The oldest multi-stage race in this part of the globe is Cantang-50 mixed team and segment race adopted the theme "The Golden Tour" to mark the occasion.

The qualifying races will again be supervised by the Philippine National Cycling Association headed by former champion Rogelio Rosas in cooperation with Lian Mayor Dodo Vergara, municipal councilmember Mar de la Cruz and municipal mayor Mr. Manuel Pangandoon.

Guidicelli 2nd in Macau

GUIDICELLI

RACER...Despite an motor engine, newly crowned BF Rookie of the Year Marco Guidicelli finished second in the team fourth round of the 2004 Asian Auto Karting Championship here.

The 14-year-old Guidicelli has made a big impression as he engaged Asians Team co-members and Malaysian Wheeler Boy Cubbin "Wonderful" Lee in a neck-and-neck battle that the Filipino eyed.

Guidicelli is still eight points ahead of his Malaysian rival going into the championship round slated in Jakarta, Indonesia next month.

"I'm very proud I was able to deliver the runner-up crown for the Philippines," said Guidicelli, who's hosted up by Pembroke Search, Subby and Adder Mobile Prepaid. "It's a close fight for the Asian crown but I'll do my best next month."

Upon arrival here, Guidicelli said the whole Cebu Pharma Group crew were shocked to discover their brand-new "Fiesta" engine was mostly lacking in power.

Lea last minute decision, the team decided to switch back to their old Shamco engine in time for the first qualifying heat and the decision proved effective.

To capture the Asian crown would bring up cap a record-breaking vote for the 14-year-old kid," said Guidicelli's father and mentor Gordon Guidicelli.

Breeder's Cup slated Nov. 23

IT'S ALL systems go for the ninth staging of the richest horse racing festival in the country, the San Miguel Best Mixto Breeder's Cup, starting on Nov. 23 at the Metro Axis Park.

Organized by the Metropolitan Association of Racehorse Owners Inc. (MARO) and San Miguel Beer, the multi-million mixed renewal of the world-class racing carnival will make more than P6 million in guaranteed prizes.

The first edition alone will be headlined by a two-day championship program on Nov. 27 and 28 among the country's top thoroughbreds in two age-group divisions.

Mayor Lito Atienza "Patch" Reyes officially launched the big racing event yesterday at the Manila Hotel attended by all key figures in the local horse racing industry.

The yearly renewal of the San Miguel Best Mixto Breeders' Cup is a fitting tribute to the country local horse owners and breeders who have endlessly supported the program since its inception in 1995," Reyes said.

Acknowledged as the country's premiere championship venue, this year's Mixto Breeders' Cup will once again be backed by the country's premiere brew—San Miguel Beer—which has extended support to the event for the seventh straight year.

Highlight events of the 9th San Miguel Best Mixto Breeders' Cup will be the running of its championship races and a roster of invitational premium races carrying hefty guaranteed purses to the winners.

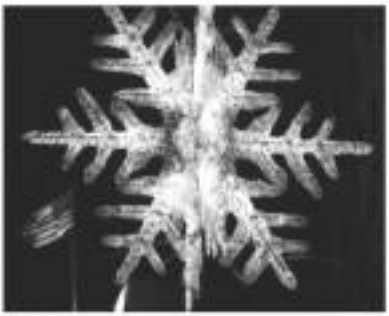
The six championship races include the Classic for older horses, the Gabriela for 3-year-old colts, the Filly Mile for 3-year-old fillies, the Juvenile Colts for 2-year-old colts and geldings, the Juvenile Fillies for 2-year-old fillies and the Sprint, which are all restricted to Mixto Breeders' Cup nominated gallopers.

Touted to make favorites are Tomahawk and 2004 Horse of the Classic, Triple Crown-finishing Gallop Ding in the 2YO Colt Mile and champion race filly Cover Girl in the 3YO Filly Mile.

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Ibarra

Ramadan message from His Excellency U.S. PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH



IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR, AGAIN
The United Crystal Snowflake hangs over 5th Ave. and 57th Street in New York City Nov. 10 moments after it was turned on for the season. AFP

OFFICIAL TEXT

ALLAHU AKBAR
GOD IS GREAT

ALHAMDULILLAH
PRAISE THE LORD

INSHA - ALLAH
MAY GOD PERMIT IT

ASSALAMU ALAIKUM or SHALOM
PEACE BE WITH YOU

All is called
God, Allah, Yahweh, Jehovah, Kaz, Dios, Dieu, Bo, Elo, Dea, Del, Gott, Pramesthes, Orun, Elohe Pravdzivoe, Bathala, El Shaddai, Deos, Yunos, Poong Maykapal, Ahuru, Apu Magbabaya and other Majestic Names that different languages all over the world only attributes to the Almighty, the One and Only Creator

US troops' tolls in Falluja reach 51 dead, 425 hurt

BAGHDAD—US troops sweeping through Falluja found what appeared to be a key command center of terror masterminded Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, along with a workshop where an SUV reglazered in Texas was being converted into a bomb and a classroom containing flight plans and instructions on shooting down planes.

Commander David as troops hunted holdout insurgents in the city west of Baghdad. One US Marine and one Iraqi soldier were killed, 10 officials said.

Lt. Gen. John Sattler, commander of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, said the US casualty toll in the Falluja offensive stood at 51 dead and about 425 wounded. An estimated 1,200 insurgents have been killed, with about 2,420 enemy fighters detained, the military says.

Those who escaped link the resistance establish in their former stronghold, Sattler told reporters at a base outside Falluja.

"We feel right now that we have, as I have stressed, broken the back of the insurgency. We've taken away this safe haven," he said.

Iraqi authorities, meanwhile, said they arrested 384 suspected insurgents in a raid in Baghdad, including nine who had fled Falluja.

Insurgents, though, scored a bank elsewhere in which a United Muslim group.

In Haditha, northwest of Falluja, militants blew up the mayor's office and the police command center. Leaders distributed by managers warned anyone who "wears a police uniform or reports to a police station (will be killed."

Car bombs in Baghdad, Mosul and Balad killed at least four people, while mortar shells that exploded near the governor's office in Mosul wounded four guards, officials said. The province of Diyala province northeast of Baghdad escaped assassination when a bomb exploded near his convoy, injuring four bodyguards.

US officials insisted the Falluja campaign produced a treasure trove of documents and other intelligence information that would help US and Iraqi authorities hunt down insurgents.

Earlier, the senior Marine commander in Iraq said some documents listed names of fighters, including some from outside Iraq. But he cautioned that the insurgents' main discovered Thursday were still being investigated.

"I cannot stand here and tell you that we found the command and control house or building where Zarqawi were based and orchestrated each of his last bombs ... and the other deaths and destruction that he has spread throughout the country of Iraq," he said.

Asserting in footage from a CNN crew embedded with the US Army, the suspected al-Zarqawi command center was in an imposing house with an exterior columns, with a large sign in marble reading "Al-Qaida Organization" and "There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is his messenger."

Al-Zarqawi's group, al-Qaida in Iraq, is considered the deadliest terrorist network in the country and is blamed for thousands dead, in car bombings and for the kidnappings and beheadings of foreign hostages, including three Americans.

Inside the house, US soldiers found documents, old computers, notebooks, photographs and copies of the Koran. Several bodies also were found. AP

Drink up or speak up: Can continued reliance on imported fossil fuels be sure and not be wrong, is one of the biggest issues behind problems like global warming, air pollution, the rise in respiratory ailments, and the perplexing question of our supply supplies. The dependence also leaves us economically vulnerable in the spiraling cost of oil, as a lot of the world market. And things will only get worse unless we reduce our use of coal and oil and push for the increased use of renewable energy sources like geothermal, solar, biomass, hydro, biomass, biogas, and wind energy. Visit WWF-Philippines' website at www.wwf.org.ph and find out how you can help. Call WWF-Philippines at 926-5486 to 88 or e-mail us at wwfphil@wwf.org.ph. Together we can make a difference.

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Platinum Cup favorites in early showdown

By Hussong B. Castillo

TITLE favorites Pioneers City, Manila Polo Club, Ayala and Players' Best are set on an early collision course after the draw of the finals of the Coors Nationals Inter-Club Platinum Cup basketball tournament yesterday put them in just two groups.

Ayala and Players' Best were drawn in Group A and will start off hostilities after grand opening ceremonies of the national finals of the event as presented by Interaxion and Globe Platinum today at the Market Market! in Fort Bonifacio.

Pioneers City and Manila Polo drew it out immediately after in Group B action, making sure that no more than one from among the four finalist teams after a round elimination round will make it to the title clash tomorrow.

Tournament format calls for the 12 teams field to be divided into four groups of three and the tournament favorites were handed into the two groups that will face each other in the crossover semifinals.

Clubbing Sports is the third team in Group A, while Pribadeg of fancied pairs Pioneers and Manila Polo in Group B with only the top scorers from these two groups advancing for opposite each other in the final Four.

Nelle Verdo, Alabang and Metro Sports Cebu are in Group C and The Zone, Club's and Holiday Inn Donsol belonging to Group D.

Former Miss Lady and Philippine Basketball Association president Amelita "Ming" Ramos and Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain have been invited to grace the assembling ceremonies to start the affairs.

Gerber Tandler has laid out two main objectives for the tournament with Coors as the official shoulderwash, Brandy Vodka Philippine Pisces the official food and Holiday Inn Donsol Clubfield, Interflex and Odion Spa as prize donors.

Philippine Airlines will be giving away 20,000 Mabuhay Miles to every member of the champion team, which will be determined after matches in the Ladies', Men's and Mixed doubles.

Mizuno and J. Ensemble are the other sponsors and will be giving away valuable merchandise in the raffle among the fans.

The tournament has shaped up into the biggest of its kind in the country, also topping other PBA teams now active in the elimination fray.

The three provincial teams have been seeded into the national finals and will be coming into the tournament with the Metro friendly teams not bearing the brunt of scouring thereon action.

Spurs play like champs vs 76ers

LEBRON James soars for a tomahawk dunk from the baseline, a play that swung momentum to Cleveland's favor.

PHILADELPHIA—Tim Duncan scored a season-high 34 points and grabbed 15 rebounds Thursday to lead the San Antonio Spurs to their fifth straight victory, 88-80 over the Philadelphia 76ers.

Allen Iverson scored 26, Kyle Korver had 17 and Corliss Williamson added 15 for the Sixers, who are 5-0 this season record by scoring just 5 points in the first quarter.

"It was a great game for us," Duncan said. "We played pretty good defense. They missed some shots and we gave ourselves a lead there. They did a hell of a job coming back, but our thoughts are through."

Bucks Stoudamire had 16 points and 11 rebounds and Manu Ginobili scored 17 for San Antonio, which had lost four in a row to Philadelphia since winning on Nov. 22, 1999.

The Spurs improved to 7-1, their best start since the 1993-94 season.

"We didn't knock down shots available to us," Sixers coach Jim O'Brien said. "They did what they had to do in the fourth quarter. They're a phenomenal world champion."

Philadelphia finished its five-game homestand with two consecutive losses after winning the first three games.

In Charlotte, North Carolina, LeBron James helped break the game open late in the second quarter by driving baseline for a windmill dunk as Cleveland downed Charlotte, 106-89.

James' dunk was one of three crowd pleasers among the 19 plays.

It was the fifth consecutive victory for the Cavaliers and improved their two games over .500 for the first time since 1999—James' freshman year in high school.

Jeff Mitchell scored 16 points for Cleveland. Zydrunas Ilgauskas had 16 and Scot Pollard 11.

James Jamerson, a former Cavaliers referred by Charlotte in the expansion draft, led the Bobcats with 16 points. Keith Bogans had 15 and Melvin Ely added 14.

In Houston, Jamal Crawford banked in a 3-pointer at the final buzzer to send New York in its first road win of the season, a 93-92 thriller over the Rockets.

Crawford finished with 19 points, going 5-of-11 from the 3-point arc, and Kurt Thomas added 23 points and 14 rebounds to hand the Rockets their fourth loss in five games.

New York, which ends a four-game trip against Dallas on Friday, came back from an 11-point deficit to start the fourth quarter, getting plenty of clutch baskets from Crawford and Thomas down the stretch.

Tracy McGrady led the Rockets with 26 points and Yao Ming added 22 points and 13 boards. AP

Annika soars to top; Rosales 4 down

ROSALES: Four shots down

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Florida—Swedish star Annika Sorenstam finished four of the last five holes for a 6-under 66 and a one-shot lead after the first round of the season-ending ADT Championship on Thursday.

LPGA's first had a 67, while Karrie Webb of Australia was among those at 68.

Filipino Jennifer Rosales shot a 70 and joined three other players at four shots off the lead.

It was the fourth opening round in the ADT Championship where it moved four years ago to Trump International, a tough course with a few waterfalls for decoration and plenty of water hazards for intimidation.

Sorenstam, going after her eighth victory of the year, was relentless early on.

Despite another dreadful wet, the rookie went her steady way right before showing up for the final tournament of the year. Sorenstam spent a few days with swing coach Henri Reis, and just like that she looked tougher from.

"Now I know where the ball is going," Sorenstam said. "I can be more aggressive with those pins if they're tucked in the corner or just behind the bunker. I'm not afraid of being a little more aggressive because I have a better feel."

That was evident on the par-4 16th, which has two bunkers to the right and a two-tiered green that defies accuracy. One right second-hitter misses Sorenstam had 140 yards from—where short—the middle of the fairway and hit a soft 7-iron some 8 feet below the cup for the only birdie among the 30 players in the field.

Meanwhile, in Wilmington, Japan, things are coming to a head for Tiger Woods.

Woods fired a 63-under 67 Friday to leap a three-stroke lead at the $5.200-million Chrysler Classic.

"Things are starting to come together," said Woods, who has a 36-hole total of 8-under 132. "For the past three or four months I've been a little more or less just getting there and consequently the scores are getting better."

Japan's Eunsoon Ishizu also fired a 67 and is three strokes off the pace followed by American Christie Prize, who is four shots back.

The day's best round belonged to Ryan, who finished 7-under on the par 71 Plantation Course Club that included eight birdies and a four bogey.

"I'm looking forward to playing with Tiger," said Ryan, a regular on the Japan Tour. "It'll be my first time and I'm a big fan of his."

Woods, who relinquished his World No. 1 ranking to Tiger Singh three months ago, carded his first birdie on the par 5 fourth hole. He went on to birdie the 6th, 12th and 14th holes.

"I just need to put the ball down at the green," said Woods when asked if he was aiming for the green off the tee on the dog leg 18th. "I didn't want to go down the hole. On this course it's important to stay below the hole." AP

URBL semis: Harbour Centre battles Lhuillier

STANDINGS	W	L
Harbour Centre	1	0
Lhuillier	1	0
Cebuana Lhuillier	0	1
Cebuana Lhuillier	0	1

SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga—At last, Harbour Centre and Lhuillier Metro Gold will battle for the semifinal berth of the United Regional Basketball League at the Ateneneo Cup of the Centennial Gymnasium in San Fernando, Pampanga tomorrow.

Centennial is at 5 p.m., after the battle for sole leadership between the Sports Stars and the Quezon Huskers, who slug it out at 3 p.m. in the second semifinal playdate of the league hosted by mikkos and Lacostade.

If Lhuillier lost to the Quezon Huskers while Harbour Centre bowed to the Sports Stars tonight first semifinal matings.

Harbour Centre coach Siong Go will start Ronjay Enrico and Jojo Mendoza to spearhead the team's charge together with new recruit Long Dendi. To lead up the team, the Milkos Hilda Ramos counsel signal likewise signed talented ended the stand Seguna Pelcaminos.

Meanwhile coach Siong Abrenica is trying to get his team back on the winning track after losing to the Huskers in overtime.

The Huskers underscore a major factor for the team of Gov. Willie Revilla and coach Francis Rodriguez.

Federer claims Moya's scalp; Roddick wins

HOUSTON—Top-seeded Roger Federer overcame a second-set lapse and remained unbeaten in the ATP Masters Cup Championships with a victory Thursday over Carlos Moya.

Federer, who won, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, is 3-0 in the Red Group of the tournament's round-robin format and is assured of the top billing for Saturday's semifinals. The loss damaged Moya's chances of advancing.

"Today was tough mentally," Federer said. "Going into the match knowing I am qualified and him knowing he needs wins, that doesn't make it easy. He handed to win so much and I didn't need to win a last match."

Federer was 6-0 record to 21-0 against top-10 opponents since last year's Masters Cup.

Roddick, seeded second, beat Australia's Lleyton Hewitt's Marat Safin, 7-6 (7), 7-6 (4), and is 2-0 in the Blue Group. The top two players in each group will play in Saturday's semifinals.

"I'm going to do my best to win each match and see how far it will take me," Roddick said. "I'm pleased to be here." AP

Manila Marathon kicks off SEAG countdown

MANILA's nine-year commitment to the country's hosting of the 2005 Southeast Asian Games begins Nov. 28 when thousand-plus Asians will flock the 42nd Manila Marathon, the biggest cross-country road race in the country.

Arnold "Ali" Atienza, chairman of the organizing Manila Sports Council (Mansc), said the Manila Marathon will serve as one of the major sporting events to kick off preparations by the Big City for the forthcoming Southeast Asian Games.

"We intend to start the city government's full throttle preparations with the staging of the Manila Marathon and its extensive network of participants," said Atienza, a former Philippine athletics representing in the games," said the son of Mayor Lito Atienza.

Mayor Atienza will lead a mammoth field expected to go over 40,000 when they are flagged off at Roxas Boulevard together with top sports officials led by Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) chair Eric Buhain.

Among those who have pledged support to the event included by Hilet, Bacoor Commissioner, DSC and Dagupe are runners from Manila's 897 barangays, the Philippine Army, Langsad ng Mayniila, City College of Manila, EASIST, Polytechnic University of the Philippines, and several others from different sectors.

Irishmen, Austrians share World Cup lead

SERGIO Garcia holds a ball in his mouth while preparing to make his putt.

SEVILLE, Spain—Irishmen Paul McGinley and Padraig Harrington are tough to satisfy.

Despite a 12-under 60 to share the lead with Austria on Thursday in the first round of the team World Cup, the Irish were greedy. They were looking for 659.

Both Irishmen had 29 first 19 starter's putts for birdies on the final hole. McGinley made a start, but just two years ago at the Belfry to win the Ryder Cup for Europe.

"It was exactly the same sort of putt, straight across the slope," McGinley said. "It was standing my mind. I was hoping to do the same, but it didn't happen."

Opening-day conditions produced low scores at the final World Golf Championships event in front of the masses. The greens were soft, the wind was down at the Real Club de Golf, and the fairways [illegible] bonus left 12 teams within four shots of the leaders going into Friday's more difficult first-nine [illegible] duel [illegible].

The Irish pair shared the lead with Austria's Markus Wagner and Markus Brier.

England's Brad Casey and Luke Donald were one off the lead after a 61, followed by Japan's Shigeki Maruyama and Hidemichi Tanaka (62) and Spain's Sergio Garcia and Miguel Angel Jimenez (63).

Six teams were tied on 9-under 64—Australia, Scotland, Germany, Sweden, Denmark and the United States.

Defending champions Retief Goosen and Trevor Immelman of South Africa were an [illegible] of the lead after 66. AP

Swedish goalie Haeggman check's his goal's line on the 18th hole.

FORMER US President Bill Clinton and daughter Chelsea share a moment during the dedication ceremony for the William J. Clinton Presidential Center, in Little Rock, Arkansas, Nov. 18. REUTERS

Clinton back for one more performance

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas—it was as if Elvis had never left the building.

Bill Clinton, the film rock 'n' roll US president, came back for one more national performance Thursday, dedicating his presidential library at the star-studded celebration that drew 100 guests besides Reddin and US frontman Bono.

And if the Oval Office to the library was just a mock-up, the presidential trappings were not enough, even if they would only last one day.

Five presidents and first women, fifteen former lawmakers, Groups 'Al Reds, came to pay their respects and the 10 air force wrapped things up with a high-scale fly-over.

No unanimously popular pitchfork with liberal Hollywood, Clinton attracted some high-wattage stars to the swimming including singer Barbra Streisand, Bobby Williams and Kevin Spacey.

The former president's musical love affair with the entertainment world was also reserved in the library's permanent exhibition, most notable in a handwritten note from Whoopi Goldberg describing Clinton as "the cat's pajamas."

Driving rain inevitably dampened the atmosphere at the dedication ceremony, with at least one of the many speeches and welcomes cut short by waterlogged notes becoming pleading paper.

But there was nothing to extinguish the ardor of the tens of thousands of fans Clinton has who attended.

"A friend reminded here long ago many," said Little Rock resident Stephen Nolan. "He's a personal hero and a national hero. We like him."

The steady development saw the group of five leaders—Laura and Barbara Bush, Rosalynn Carter and Hillary Clinton—take the podium in front of the library under umbrellas, while their husbands chose to follow in a more unpolished fashion.

When President Bush found his place, he lifted up his wife's umbrella and pushed underneath, apparently double checking that he was standing next to the right woman.

Presidential clubs are by nature exclusive and tightly knit, and the narratives of these presents—Eisenhowers, Kennedys, Reagans and Nixons among others—reflected the mutual recognition of shared family experiences.

"There is a special in-that-kind-of-way-to-gather who have lived and served in the White House and have owned save other things," said former President Jimmy Carter. AFP

Aussies work longest hours, but at a price

SYDNEY—Australians work to be longest hours in the industrialised world and are likely to work themselves into an early grave, said a report released on Friday.

Titled "Take The Rest Of The Day Off," the report said that if Australians took the rest of the year off from tomorrow and then took their annual four weeks leave, they would still work the same as the average worker in other industrialised countries.

Australians clock up about 1,855 hours' work each year compared to the developed country average of 1,643 hours, said the report by The Australia Institute research centre.

"While Australians often think of themselves as living at the land of the long weekend, they are now working the longest hours in the developed world, and in fact are at risk of working themselves sick," said Institute director Clive Hamilton.

Australians are working longer hours than Americans, the most longest working nation, and even the Japanese, who are known for the phenomenon of "karoshi" or "death by work," Hamilton said.

And Australian workers were paying a price, with their health, for working such long hours.

"They are reporting higher degrees of stress and anxiety, and obesity, depression and have a greater say on the rise," said Hamilton said in a statement.

"If as individuals and as a society we choose to measure progress simply in terms of our prosperity and our material incomes, then we are likely to make ourselves into early grazes." Reuters

Powell may be repeating UN speech fiasco with his Iran report, says paper

WASHINGTON...Outgoing US Secretary of State Colin Powell's assessments earlier this week that Iran could be developing nuclear-capable missiles was based on an "unvetted, single source," The Washington Post said Friday.

The intelligence, which two US officials said had not been verified, could be significant if true but an embarrassment if not, reminiscent of Powell's February 2003 UN speech about Iraq's alleged weapons of mass destruction, which was based on dubious intelligence and which as he has proved wrong.

The officials told the daily the intelligence was scrapped "in Foreign," meaning it was not to be shared even with Colin, although their analysis by President George W. Bush shared portions of it with British Prime Minister, Tony Blair last week.

Powell, in hearings for an Agency committee worked, said Wednesday that he had "more acute information that would suggest" that Iran was working to adapt its missiles to carry nuclear warheads—they have "been actively working on delivery systems," he said.

The information in Powell's comments was drawn from a "media in" source, who provided US intelligence with 1,000 pages of alleged Iranian drawings and technical documents, including possible variants to ballistic missiles to carry nuclear weapons, one official with access to the material told the daily.

The officials, who asked not to be identified but agreed to talk with the daily about information already discussed by Powell, said the source was not previously known to US intelligence.

They said the Central Intelligence Agency remained unsure about the authenticity of the documents and how they came into the informant's possession.

The officials did not name the identity of the source or whether he was connected to an Iranian exile group which made news accusations about Iran's alleged nuclear weapons ambitions in Iran on Wednesday.

They said the lack of certainty about the source had kept them from talking publicly about the information and that Powell's statements had caught them by surprise and even angered some of them.

Powell, who is to be succeeded by national security adviser Condoleezza Rice during Bush's second term in office, has been described by some newspapers as the moderate, "old man out" in a hawkish Bush administration and has often been in no mood for his statements.

The New York Times quoted other unidentified sources as saying that the US government, to assuage concerns over Iran, told some European diplomats that Powell had misspoken in releasing information that had not been verified.

Iran on Sunday agreed with the European Union's three biggest powers—Britain, France and Germany—to freeze uranium enrichment-related activities to ease fears its hard-line stance would be diverted to make an atomic bomb.

The Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency, the UN atomic watchdog, announced Monday that Iran had pledged to suspend activities related to uranium enrichment by November 22 pending a longer-term accord based on EU incentives. AFP

AAN addressing reporters in Jakarta in this picture
n May 13, 2002. AP

UN employees readying historic vote of no confidence vs embattled Annan

UNITED NATIONS—UN employees were readying on Friday to make a historic vote of no confidence against Swedish-plagued Secretary-General Kofi Annan, sources said.

The UN staff union, in what officials said was the first vote of its kind in the more than 58-year history of the United Nations, was set to approve a resolution withdrawing its support for the embattled Annan and UN management.

Annan has been in the line of fire over a high-profile series of scandals including controversy about a UN-led program that investigators say allowed deposed Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein to embezzle billions of dollars.

But staffers said the trigger for the no-confidence measure was an announcement this week that Annan had proclaimed the UN's top oversight official, who was facing allegations of incompetence and sexual harassment.

The union had requested a formal probe into the behavior of the official, Dileep Nair, after employees accused him of harassing members of his staff and violating UN rules on the hiring and promotion of workers.

Top UN spokesperson Fred Eckhard acknowledged on Tuesday that Nair had been exonerated by Annan. "After a thorough review" by the UN's senior officials in charge of management, Catherine Bertini, Annan underscored that he "had every confidence" in Nair, Eckhard said, but UN employees ridiculed the decision and claimed that investigators had not questioned the staff union, which first raised the complaints in April.

"This was a whitewash, pure and simple," Guy Candiano, a senior member of the staff union, said.

Candiano noted that Eckhard's declarations to the press had said that "no further action was necessary in the matter."

But in a letter sent to the union, a copy of which was obtained by AFP, Annan's chief of staff Iqbal Riza said Nair had been "advised that he should exercise caution" in future to "minimize the risk of negative perception."

In a statement set to be released on Friday, the union said Riza's statement "substantiates the assessment of the staff that there was impropriety" and that there was no "lack of integrity, particularly at the highest levels of the organization."

The draft resolution, also obtained exclusively by AFP, calls on the union president to "convey this vote of no confidence to the secretary-general."

Staffers who asked not to be named, afraid that speaking out could damage their future prospects in the United Nations, said the Nair decision was emblematic of widespread corruption by Annan and his senior staff.

They noted that Riza, UN undersecretary general for communications Shashi Tharoor and other top officials had served directly under Annan at least since 1994, when he was head of UN peacekeeping operations.

At the time, the United Nations was widely criticized for failing to stop the Rwanda genocide that left 800,000 people dead, even though UN peacekeepers were on the ground—a catastrophe for which Annan has publicly apologized. AFP

Sudan foes vow to end civil war by December 31

NAIROBI—Sudan's government and its southern rebel foes promised the UN Security Council on Friday to end Africa's largest ongoing civil war by Dec. 31.

With UN Security Council ambassadors as witnesses, a Sudanese government official and a negotiator from the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement signed a document pledging to sign a final pact by Dec. 31 to end 21 years of war in the oil-producing south of Africa's biggest country.

"The parties declare their commitment to expeditiously complete negotiations... so as to conclude and sign the comprehensive peace agreement no later than Dec. 31, 2004," the memorandum of understanding states.

"The parties recommend thereafter to finalize and conclude a comprehensive peace agreement in recognition that prompt implementation of the peace process is essential for all the people of the Sudan as it will help in resolving the challenges facing the country."

The signing took place at a special session of the UN Security Council in the Kenyan capital, and all UN ambassadors at the world's top security body then signed the document. UN special envoy to Sudan Jan Pronk initialed the document.

Sudan faces conflict on many fronts, mainly in the south where which have been fighting the government since 1983, when Khartoum tried to impose Islamic law on the entire country, but also in Darfur in the west, where violence that escalated nearly two years ago has led to a profound humanitarian crisis. Reuters

Chirac, Blair agree to differ over Iraq

LONDON—French President Jacques Chirac agreed to disagree with Prime Minister Tony Blair over Iraq on Thursday but pledged full cooperation, from Africa to the Middle East, when Britain heads the G8 and European Union in 2005.

CHIRAC

Since the run-up to war in Iraq, relations between the two European heavyweights have been fractious, sometimes bitter.

But diplomats said the pair's performance at Lancaster appeared to show genuine commitment to healing the rift.

Addressing a joint news conference, they stressed common ground over African poverty and climate change—Blair's stated priorities when Britain presides over the G8 group of leading nations throughout 2005 and the EU bloc in the second half.

Chirac, visiting London to mark the centenary of "Entente Cordiale"—the end of colonial rivalry between France and Britain—said Paris would "actively support" those priorities and hailed the "landmark" areas where our work based to grow."

The pair shared a common analysis over bringing Israelis and Palestinians together following the death of Yasser Arafat.

Blair has pressed newly re-elected President George W. Bush to make that a personal priority.

"What matters really is if that we have an answer in the present and for the future," Chirac said, adding that Africa and climate change were "two of the most important questions we need to address for the future of the world."

Chirac and leading Britons Bonnie Bachrach the world to unite. "If you see the way things are developing in the world in terms of security and the expansion of terrorism... you cannot say you'll. He the situation has significantly improved."

In a later speech in the City of London, the president took a cooled stance on Washington, too, saying the West could not continue to impose its will or values on the world.

"The world needs a strong Europe in a reforged trans-Atlantic partnership," he said. "We must avoid any confusion between democratization and Westernization." People would see that as imperialism and colonialism. Reuters

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OPINION

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Old story

THE INITIAL findings of a recent study conducted by End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes (Ecpat), a nongovernmental advocacy group, no longer come as a surprise. They only confirm that prostitution in the Philippines is indeed a worsening problem; and, just like leaving the country to earn a living abroad, it has become a means of survival for thousands and thousands of Filipino families long struggling to at least keep their heads above a deepening poverty.

EDITORIAL

One finding—although already public knowledge and an accepted fact—especially stands out: the recruiters of sex workers, especially children, are "immediate family members [or] people known to family and friends." This speaks volumes not only about how desperate many of our poor have become but also about how poverty has corrupted the moral values of the only predominantly Christian nation in Asia.

Consider this: In the 1980s, there were already between 40,000 and 100,000 child prostitutes in the Philippines. These figures do not include prostitutes above the age of 16. And not all of them were female; a substantial number were very young boys. The Ecpat study says many of them found themselves in Malaysia and Japan. In fact, to be referred to as a "Japayuki," a term referring to Filipina entertainers in Japan, does not exactly invite respect in a community. And it is a sign indication as to how serious the problem of prostitution has become, international writer Paulo Coelho has a Filipina prostitute plying her trade between Brazil and Switzerland in one of his best-selling books, "11 Minutes."

Just as it has been known as a leading provider of domestic helpers, Cebu or in Philippines is also fast becoming known as a primary source of prostitutes. Such reputation has brought into our shores not only a steady stream of pedophiles masquerading as foreign tourists; it has also drawn perverts masquerading as foreign investors.

Inquirer columnist Rina Jimenez-David has observed that "cybersex" could be "the fastest-growing segment of the sex industry in the country." Iloilo Rhetorics, chair of the Optical Media Board, after raiding a cybersex facility in Angeles, Pampanga, expressed shock upon discovering that "40 percent of all the materials we confiscate now consists of child pornography" and that an increasing number of sex videos are made in the Philippines with Filipino children as "actors." Many, if not most, of the producers of these revolting pornographic materials are said to be foreigners. It is believed that because of the proliferation of these materials, more Filipinos have become pedophiles themselves.

The Ecpat study notes that the recruiters of the sex workers have "indications of guilt but they often justify it by saying they are helping the family [and] helping alleviate poverty in the community." There are also those who assert prostitution to be legalized—accepting it as a "fact of life," the oldest profession that mankind has been stuck with "since time immemorial" and cannot do away with all kingdom come—if only "to prevent the spread of sexually transmitted diseases." By the same logic, exterior those opposed to the idea, illegal drugs and some crimes should be legalized because we cannot completely stop them.

Is the government really helpless in containing prostitution? It has been pointed out that the Philippines already has one of the most stringent laws against child prostitution, but enforcement of such laws leaves much to be desired. The general perception is that this is so because influential public officials have always been among the most generous patrons of prostitutes (take the case of Senator Reeves and former Sen. Romeo Jalosjos) if they are not themselves members of prostitution syndicates. Thai prostitution rivets, among them nightclubs and RTV bars, quickly go back in business after being raided by the police.

It is an old story really, one that we have heard through generations—only with different casts of characters and with a growing number of children of tender age brazenly and alarmingly being victimized. It is time our national and local officials responded to this problem with greater urgency and resolve. For, indeed, prostitution erodes the moral fiber of society and destroys a person's self-respect and dignity.

Poetry versus problems

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

—that we exist wholesomely not
Is shining in the sky.

In high school, we were thrilled by John Greenleaf Whittier's "At School-Days," where a little girl and a mischievous boy

The secret dear I spoil to be heard:
I hate to go above you,
Because,"—the brown eyes lower fell—"because, you see, I love you."

Poor girl! The geniuses on her genes
Were dying years from greeting!

He flew to boats, in NFA land he lived,
Even for who pass above him
Lahmen short to laugh and hot fun,
Life for,—because they love him.

I remember that when then Special Prosecutor Raul M. Gonzalez openly accused three justices of the Supreme Court of impropriety for sending him written and innocent examination shades for some job applicants, I wanted them with this passage from "The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam":

The Moving Finger writes, and having writ,
Moves on; nor all your Piety nor Wit

Shall lure it back to cancel half a line
Nor all your Tears wash out a Word of it.

"This Prayer of a Little Dog," which I copied from a magazine when I was a teenager, still continues to delight me after all these years.

Pa-explained to St. Basil I'd rather stay here
Outside the Pearly Gates
Than I be in isolation, I won't even bark,
I'll bravely endure and insist
I'll stay here and take a natural leave
No matter how long it will take.
I miss you so much if I were to leave
It wouldn't be fairness to me.

Boggled, the mutt will say? To me it's charming.

There there is this similar sentiment: William Butler Yeats paid his daughter, who must still be cherishing it today.

She can, though every face should scorn
And every wind quarrel her hood
I'll cover her Before there, be happy still.

I have lately three verses to appreciate but there are space restrictions. And as Robert Frost wrote in "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening":

The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.

All right, class, lessons over. Back to the grindstone and let's talk now of the heavy nonsense that the financial crisis is over.

A superior sin tax bill

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

REP. ROMULO Neri earned the ire of his colleagues in the House of Representatives when he publicly acknowledged what may have been common knowledge among many of their number: the unfortunately challenged (and confirmed value everybody else had already taken for granted: that money from the cigarette lobby must have flowed heavily during the deliberations on the new sin tax bill.

"Lots of time" or "time pressure" cannot be used as the reason why the bill that the House produced fails to achieve the minimum acceptable revenue, transparency and fairness goals: these long could it possibly take to deliver the provision to the prevailing law that says, "The classification of each brand of cigarettes based on its average net retail price as of Oct. 1, 2004, as set forth in Annex 'D,' shall remain in force until revised by Congress?" The deletion of that single, three-line provision would result, per the computations of the Department of Finance based on 2003 cigarette removals, in additional revenue of P10 billion annually.

As the reader will recall, that provision was inserted into during the bicameral conference committee meetings in 2003, a perfect example of the workings of the "Third House" of Congress. That one sentence has prevented the reclassification of cigarette brands from one specific tax category to another, thereby keeping the prices pegged up through time, over the past eight years.

Whatever the rationalization, the fact is that the House removed this provision, thereby reducing tax revenues to the government by more than P10 billion a year, to the benefit of the cigarette companies, largely to one of them. Even those have gotten free cigarettes among, and he certainly did not offer any "proof," for I cannot imagine anyone either demanding or issuing receipts for this kind of transaction. But one does not have to be a genius to figure out the profits year after year from the retention of this provision.

To note the fitness to achieve the harder core the old issues will be time-pinged cost. Rather is that the cigarette lobby is bragging that it has captured more than enough votes to keep the provision in and that even if the lobby fails in the house, it can still depend (as it did in 2003) on the bicameral conference committee. Which is why it is of crucial importance to civil society to apply constant pressure, so can all means to ensure that the cigarette lobby does not get its way again.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile's version of the sin tax bill is the kind that civil society should be supporting vigorously: it has some very desirable features. First and foremost, it makes cigarette classification tedious, because it adopts a uniform specific tax rate (instead of the current four tax rates) for all cigarettes, whether inexpensive or high-priced, by 2006. The principle is simple: smoking, regardless of brand and price of cigarettes, causes the same health hazards, and should be heavily and discouraged equally.

This is actually a brilliant proposal. The current system, which classifies cigarettes into four price categories, with four corresponding specific tax rates, provides perverse incentives for manufacturers to either avoid or evade taxes by trying to get their cigarettes into the lowest possible category or to increase evading tax administration problems. The provision to keep the classification schemes "unchanged by Congress" was inserted to precisely allow the manufacturers to avoid taxes. And the lower tax rates paid by the low-priced cigarettes did not serve to discourage cigarette consumption (the consumption purpose of the tax). In our 2003 survey, all these problems are addressed.

The revenue effect of the Senate bill positively eases the House bill in the study: estimated additional revenues of P18 billion in 2005, P5.3 billion for each of the next three years, P4.8 billion in 2009, and P6.3 billion in 2010.

The Enrile bill also adopts, which the House bill does not do (another major flaw), a mechanism that will provide an automatic adjustment of tax rates relative to inflation every two years starting in 2013. This is what Enrile wanted in 1997, this is what the original task force for a comprehensive tax reform program was recommending in 1997, and what is what all analysts (including the IFC 11) are continuing to advocate.

Among those on housework, Enrile also has a provision in his bill to stop soft sin stamps by manufacturers to from fund their cigarette production or importation in anticipation of the passage of the tax rates. He also includes another provision, as a revenue safeguard, that cigarettes that are currently subject (if there are any) to a higher tax rate than the proposed taxes must continue to be subject to the higher rates.

Finally, the bill has a kicker for a investment, in the end, it provides that 5 percent of the additional revenues (over the 1004 amount) will be divided equally among the Lung Center, the Heart Center and the Kidney Center.

In Enrile's words, his measure will promote "revenue productivity, enhanced tax administration, simplicity in structure, fulfills the compensary purpose of taxation, and in addition, level the playing field for the cigarette industry."

The Senate can redeem itself. All concerned Filipinos should support this bill.

Battle for public perception

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

WHAT has unfolded at Hacienda Luisita is the classic age-old class struggle that has been manipulated by its immense propaganda value, owing to the fact that a member of the clan that owns the sprawling hacienda is former President Cory Aquino. The packaged propaganda was said to have cost the piqued Aquinos an editorial sympathizer, studded peppered of would bodies from various places outside the hacienda the day before the outbreak of violence, swelling the number of fatalities to 20.

The way the conflict has unfolded is to the media shows the upper hand of the left in influencing and even manipulating public opinion. By contrast, there's the seeming helplessness of the establishment to defend itself in the media.

* * *

The pro-elite note on both the police and some protesters tend to show that the shooting was done by both sides. "The police's defense is that the members fired warning shots into the air but only did some of the strikers one positive, too? Police maintain that some demonstrators were killed by the bullets. Meaning, they could have been shot by unknown persons from behind, perhaps in anger the comrade and the public about police brutality and whip up anger by to foment their claim, the police reported that firearms, including high-powered rifles, were found in the possession of the camping crowd and that their fire truck and armed personnel were fired at.

The police is obviously bobbling up the double shot this was not just a simple demonstration by the agitated peasants, but there was more exploration by the organized left. But it's a perception game, albeit an uneven one.

* * *

In the battle for public perception—and for hearts and minds—it's important that the strategies one be impartial and that the truth emerge first of. Unfortunately for the administration, so-far is telling about the statements by the military and police officials, and the Department of Agrarian Reform. As far as their expert interpretations are concerned, those sides and explanation don't matter. The fact is that violence has erupted and tensions have been stirred up against the authorities.

For instance, a common refrain now is that the police ought to have practiced maximum restraint. But a running police officer assigned to another area, with whom I spoke, nonetheless that their the bullets could have tempered that behavior if they were absolutely certain that the police would know are their guns. He said that police how the manipulators claim prepared to provoke violence, it was doubtful if maximum restraint would have worked. One thing is sure, in common like this make police work an tough.

* * *

Some observers like former PNP Director General Edgar Aglipay should merely have put the top PNP regional officers in the line on some kind of suspension for, say, two weeks or a month pending investigation of the Luisita episode, instead of just relieving them of their posts and over the police. If their commander is relieved after a confrontation, there would be less of them left to lead. Moreover, few of those might wish to risk their necks and be ridiculed for the sake of the Cojuangco family. But then, the police, who's a well-meaning fellow, probably assumed to make the PNP investigation more credible.

* * *

It's why has become so angry now, owing to the latest misfortunate, at the 24/7 Inside evening show's co-host with Cecile Alvarez. Aglipay stressed that his priority was to effect a high police visibility in public areas by increasing police presence. He said that in the case of the kidnapping of the Catholic Columbans that investigated the performance of the PNP after the Calbayog mutiny that the police are over-arrogant and are not in places where people need them. Aglipay said the Director's marching order when he was appointed was to implement the recommendations of the fact-finding body headed by former justice secretary Teofisto Guingona, he said he was able to convince the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Filipino-Chinese Federation to contribute some consultant time and mobile police stations all over the country to replace the police boxes.

* * *

Aglipay said fellow Manilio has been derided into two camps: the "individual camp" where organizations such as the Couples for Christ, the archdiocesan communities or anti-crime groups are tapped to help police in their campaign, and the nothing camp he against drugs and reporting drug pushers, and the "communist camp" where 24-hour police presence in these areas is required. For instance, in public markets the police are found as early as 4 a.m. when the resident's are up to 6 a.m. other commuters come. Then they move from 6 to 8 a.m. to the highways in time for school and office openings. From 8 a.m. to noon or so areas where people are targets such as banks and malls. Around 4 p.m. they go back to the schools, and after 6 p.m. they move to the shopping and restaurant areas.

He asked Aglipay how the PNP is doing this is the economic problem. Aglipay said that in the case of his cousin last August, the PNP was inquiring 36, but over the weeks confidence in the police has steadily gone up, prompting a future family to tell him, "Sharing we answer hundreds [sic] of calls." (The Bicolano Aglipay, 27.) Aglipay said leaving cases have gone down by 75 percent and hold-ups in malls by 60 percent. He also said the PNP is marking hard to raise the morale of police and their families through various activities. "Kelangan talaga ang mga ganyan para mapalakas ang loob ng mga pulis," he told an official of the newly formed Commission on Group Promotion, who visited him recently.

Mr. Aglipay, the director says, is not much a matter of perception, and in the fight of recent problems, the PNP has as much hard as improving its image.

Population and poverty

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

TO CAP a forum on population and poverty held at the Senate Thursday, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, who co-chairs the Philippine Legislators Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD), told the story of a widow with five children, the oldest of whom was just seven at the time of her husband's death.

Widowed, the woman fended for herself and her children after her husband, a tailor, passed away. the widow was forced to choose who among her children could get a college education, and ended up choosing only two, "about maybe the youngest[sic] and the eldest," since they were girls and "easier to train." But even poverty could not deter the older child, down from achieving their own dreams. One of the "unchosen" three decided to work to earn money for the family, while the other two managed to survive in the city studying and working as a laundry boy, accepting washing chores from students in nearby colleges. The hardworking young man who later rose to meet the Philippine Military Academy and earned not a career for himself in the Marines. Now serving a term as AFP chief of staff, he owes his college a lot to his mother.

If we Dr. Roberto de Vera, of the School of Economics of the University of Asia and the Pacific, who challenged the links that population management advocates have made between population size and poverty. The edge of the presentation was to say "but many People Doesn't Cause Poverty, But Government Policies Do."

But when mentioned right "assertions" made by population management proponents and "myths" that need to be debunked each of them, they were that "higher population densities lead to lower

Continued on page 2

Invincible

FEBRUARY thought I was invincible. Perhaps I had mistaken an expressionless shiver barring an individual former, one with our responsibilities. Perhaps I assumed that what hadn't had would abandon me from all unanimated things in life. But "perhaps" was probably too much of a reverse-ing dream in my life as that it had me in its right grip.

I was fooled up as I took the medical exam for what was supposed to be my first job as a teenager. I had applied for a bank. With the jobless and recruitments that were such passing all the recent and time-wives, I had visions of parents with friends texting till morning and still merely financial freedom.

YOUNG BLOOD

Kristine H. Tuvil

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twenty-something and below. —Ed.

The dentist was poking my abdomen with a measuring look on her face. Then she asked a series of questions: "When was your last period? Did you have sexual contact? Have you had an ultrasound?"

She explained that she could feel a mass in my abdomen, comparable to the size of a four-month-old fetus. My heart beat grew galloping upon hearing those words. "No!" I protested in my head. "I cannot be pregnant! It couldn't happen to me!"

I prepared for the worst to be something risky—a benign tumor, a monstrous lump even, just not a bundle of life. I told myself there was something wrong with my cycle. I wasn't pregnant. I could not be pregnant.

My vision blurred as two pink lines made their way through the home pregnancy test kit that I'd wanting in my bathroom drawer. My brain became a mere silhouette as I prayed for the unborn baby to rape with my predicament. My pregnancy meant that I would be incapacitated from the training program, which would cost me six months.

And how would I go about telling my parents about it? How was I to tell them that the one their eldest daughter was going to be an unwed mother?

I cried as I smith the thought away. The pregnancy test might have been wrong. The mass could mean to be a tumor and, instead of being angry, my parents would look at me with horror.

But the ultrasound could not lie. The image of my son kicking in my womb played back in my head. The confirmation enveloped me like a cold truth that had been hiding in the shadows. And I knew that I had to tell my parents sometime.

It took me a week to finally muster the courage to tell my mom. Every day that preceded that fateful day I wished to extend longer. I feared my parents' fury. I was afraid they would disown me. I did not want my siblings to lose their respect for me. But above all, I feared the sense of failure that my own failure would impose upon them.

When I told her, my mom silent and seemed blaming herself. I assured her it wasn't her fault; she had nothing to do with my irresponsible actions. But I knew that the kind of trust that lingered in the house as we waited for my dad means that she would continue to feel a profound sense of failure long after I'm gone.

I knew my dad was his last when he heard the news. But he faced me with calm composure. He gave me the option to settle down with the father of my baby, but I chose to stay with my family for. I was sure they would never leave me, knowing that many single moms struggle in raising their children. More important is that no matter how much your parents are and no matter how much you've hurt them in the past, there will be doors in the room of forgiveness.

My lowest point came at what was supposed to be the highest point of my life, and my parents were there to celebrate the achievement with me. Though the pain I gave them, my parents gave me all the love that I needed.

My mom took me to all my prenatal check-ups and bought me maternity blouses. My dad drove me to the hospital at 12 midnight when I felt the labor contractions start. Upon seeing my baby in the hospital he said, "Sira, ingat mata ni Ing! Iyot sa nitin ha?"

I gave birth by caesarean section after almost 24 hours of labor. My mom's face generation when I regained consciousness. She touched my hair and asked me how I was feeling. I was throbbing with pain. And then I remembered her before I was unconscious. I was in pain, I answered. When I was sitting down her face, she told me I needed to undergo a caesarean section. And here she was, after spending a sleepless night, telling her that the pain would soon go away.

At home, everyone was awaiting our arrival. My 8 year-old sister ran to me, and I saw the tears in her eyes. She became running to me, excited to see her first grandchild. Everyone, from my kids to our helper, immediately gathered around our house when my bundle of joy in my arms.

It's been almost a year since I first set eyes on my son. Invincible in our battle has become happier and "younger" ever since he arrived. He has become my reason to live. Through the nights and whether my days all sorts of things. He is everyone's little baby. When he cries in his playpen, all cows of us rush to his rescue. My mom and dad change clothes the moment they come home from work just as they would hold him. My second sister asks me almost all the time, "Ate, pasok ba ng?"

I see my son as my lucky charm. Two months after I gave birth, I got an offer to work for the same bank that I had applied with before. I knew I was pregnant, then though God's grace and perhaps the luck my son has brought me, I made it to the bank's review management training program for the exit.

It's tough, but being a single mom has its rewards. I work all day and sleep with my son at night. Although I don't get the same sound, uninterrupted sleep as before, it's all worth it when I look at my son's face. Even in his sleep, he has some animated replies can one pure bliss when he wakes me up and smiles. He makes me feel like I could defy human limitations.

For the biggest mistake I have ever committed, I got the biggest blessing in my life. Although I have not met any single mom some of life's most valuable lessons, but also brought me the strength and faith I never knew I had. My circle of endless parties has been replaced by a normal image of me taking care of my son, going to PTA meetings, making a resolution for his school parade and perhaps meeting his girlfriend through their the thought as of now).

It was wrong of me then to assume that things would always go the way I wanted them to and that my faith would keep away the unwanted things in life. Still I know now that with my son, I am truly invincible.

Kristine H. Tuvil, 24, is a management trainee at Security Bank Corp.

Bisayas in 1668

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Ricardo L. Burjaer

THE SECOND volume of the "History of the Visayan People in the Philippine Islands" by Fr. Ignacio Alcina, S.J. is now translated, edited and annotated by Francisco Fr. Carlos Kobak and Archbishop Fr. Louis Gaudentel. Set over copies were because there are seldom several printings in succession.

Alcina always has something entertaining to tell us. For instance: If in order you don't know this because I make it, the first place outside Manila to have a printing press (in 1593) was Tanza, where they were used for both raising and racing. The Arabic they brought them some years later to Cebu to make crowd control for the missionaries.

Alcina also brought to the Visayas and seen at no less to check, as it ranch called Binilihan belonging to the Jesuits, which the book's editors were unable to trace. Since many of the Jesuit possessions passed on to the government, Binilihan must have been one of the few (or more) other things handled by government) and seeking more was bound of it.

The interesting thing about Binilihan is that Alcina was most impressed by their sheep, highly prized, according to Alcina, it may have been due to "the hilly terrain, its moisture, good water and especially ... a kind of scotch grass."

Cebu was a hopeless case, and even the Jesuits couldn't make a go of sheep there.

Another curiously mentioned is something called bonan, stones that were found in the entrails of cows and sometimes pigs. These were also found in the entrails of deer and wild boar. These stones were more over a great variety of the species here. I'm not going to make any exact numerous claims about because we're going to end up getting stuck. The longest were the size of your eggs. We are informed that these things were called from India and were sent to Europe. Sometimes they were as large as duck or chicken eggs. They were considered medicinal and served for fevers of various diseases. Sometimes they were found in cooking stone-like cakes.

It seems that Alcina had quite a collection, one that national figures do appear this convention but looks for some possible names for the journey of freedom. He finds this in a table that shows that families where the "breadwinner" has not finished high school are poorer than families headed by a person without four such secondary education.

Well, duh. Of course, families whose income-earners have only "secondary education will be poorer because their "secondary education will be poorer because their entire life so that only work that pays poorly. But if, say, a father who didn't finish high school had only two children, it could be safe to say that those two children would at least be better off than a father who had completed four if they had to share their father's meager income with, say four other siblings.

If we accept (as latest method of reasoning, that the "poverty" of the Filipino family is the result of poor choices by the family, including a parent's vices, such as gambling or drugs.

* * *

INDICATING the other side of the picture's was Dr. Wenda Tiongco, director of the UP Population Institute, who cited longitudinal data (that is, gathered across a number of years) that showed that indeed "vulnerability to poverty increases with number of children."

She also cited a study made by UP economists, Dr. Ernesto Pernia among them, that compares the patterns of economic development and population growth of the Philippines and Thailand, which in the 1970s stood at fairly equal levels in terms of population size and economic performance. Today, Thailand enjoys double the Philippines' economic growth rate, and its population growth rate is also the population growth rates of Thailand.

The UP study also proposed numerous scenarios of "what could have been" had the Philippines followed the Thai model of population management. If we had followed that, Pernia said, Ogena, the Philippines could be saving as much as P12 billion on health care costs, and as much as P120 billion on education.

As Biazon reminded the audience: "Think of the pain."

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Which would you have, beauty or brains?

LETTERS

I'D RATHER agree more with Conrado de Quiroz' column on Nov 11, in which he described this country's warped sense of priorities: "Given the desperate job shortages of young men of the country, it's far better to be born rich and dumb, charming rapists behind entertainment rather than educated, the gifted rather than the gold."

In fact, I believe that our country has become so flawed, that somewhere, somewhere in its future the gifter will celebrate the gold. A lot become the other way around. Every year thousands of new college graduates simply become added nuisance to the unemployment case. The MDs who have spent at least nine years of schooling take a low-wage resource become RNs to leave the country. The lawyers, MAs, MBAs and Ph.D.s, despite having gone through years of toil and hardwork in school, still end up as vendors, with dismal pay due to lack of research and scholarship opportunities. Computer shops with the Dolce and Richmond who earn millions by trading and crying in front of the camera; with the musicians and models who get millions in contracts for their endorsements, etc.

I remember a question that was usually asked during my high school days: "Which would you rather have: brains or looks?" I recall at least eight out of 10 people would rather have something to ride their head. Would this still the same nowadays?

And so, my, in today's setting, the college degrees, including the various rules attached to salary, become an added "plus" to their resumés, while Hero and Sandara get to enjoy the "gold." Thus, I can't blame this from their Grad of '64 rather send her daughter to exclusive for "Star School" or "Star Circle," rather than send her to school.

—NICHOLAS GONZALES,
nicgon21@yahoo.com

Tanong ng Bayan
ABC
Gulo sa Hacienda Luisita, sino ang may sala?

After Javier case, Antique must move on

CONRADO de Quiroz is his usual careless self again in his column, PDI, 10/31/04. He attacks Antique Gov. Salvacion Zaldivar-Perez for encouraging the acceptance of the judge's acquittal of Arturo Pacificador in the Padre Javier murder case.

If there were anybody who supported Javier when nobody knew him, it was the Zaldivar family. If there was someone who supported Javier when Javier's wife during the appeal, Javier's political career, it was Salvacion Zaldivar-Perez and her brother, then Gov. Enrique Zaldivar. But even Enrique's Javier, Javier's brother can lay claim to least provided the support than the Zaldivar give. But De Quiroz does not know this.

"Painful" is an understatement to describe what the good governor felt upon reading the column. But to be questioned on his right to speak of pain and acrimonious really hurt. Does De Quiroz have a right to criticize the decision by imposing sanctions and creating repercussions? Do De Quiroz's own lawyer and he will never obtained. The danger is, his devoted views on such sensitive issues could create so much damage because of the deprived influence he holds over so many people.

Before ordering Governor Zaldivar-Perez and Judge Rudy Catanyan, he should have considered these: (1) Pacificador is out of power and one of enemy, Javier's brother Enrique's last commercially held the reins of power in the province since 1987. Dr. Quiroz that causes claim that the decision was attained with power and influence. Like Cory Aquino, Enrique Javier was raised to office purely to vindicate for his brother. There is a general perception and influence in Antique that Enrique Javier, on the other hand, managed to become probably one of the richest, most powerful and most influential person in Antique. (2) Dr. Quiroz claims that no lawyer would have handled the case. He should tell that to Enrique's brother, who is himself a lawyer and a governor in one of the top law offices in this country. If Enrique were to bill Erdie for the case, for sure, he would not be able to charge for the act hence that it took the clerks to read the decision. Enrique didn't care enough for the memory of his brother to hire his presence in front to the reading of the decision. (3) The court went on for 15 years under the most innovative country of the industry themselves. Since 1987, Enrique Javier as congressman and governor, was in a position to gather evidence for his brother's case. Did he?

Governor Zaldivar-Perez only wants our province to move on.

—EDILBERT ROMUALDEZ,
jbrita@yahoo.com

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Evenhanded PNP chief

PLEASE allow us to react to Ramon Tulfo's Oct. 3 column entitled 'Edgar Aglipay's moral leadership.'

Tulfo says that PNP Director General Edgardo Aglipay has broken a "disciplinary rule when he was caught drinking with the male and life" for "seems to be a standing in dealing with his subordinates who are gay or soft."

But we sorry Tulfo that the Philippine National Police chief has climb evenhandedly with everyone in the PNP from the top leadership, down to the lowest-ranking police officer. If Tulfo is implying that the PNP chief has been unduly harsh on the small fry while leniency for scoundrels on the big fish, it may be because he has not kept himself updated on recent developments. If he did, he would have known, for instance, that the chief of a high-profile PNP unit, with the rank of chief superintendent—the equivalent of a brigadier general in the military—has just been relieved of his post and transferred to another unit for disregarding lawful orders and command.

Tulfo urged to Chief Supt. Oscar Calderon, the current PNP comptroller, we assume Tulfo that the PNP chief will decide on his entanglement solely on the basis of what is in the best interest of the service, and not on the basis of Calderon's relationship to the President. Calderon is qualified for the key position in the PNP and is considered one of the most outstanding young field and staff officers in the police force today.

We would like to believe that the PNP chief has chosen to employ, on right of character and firm leadership during the past three months, and that he has been doing everything humanly possible to make service meaningful and lasting reforms. He would allow the PNP to regain the full trust and respect of the people.

Let us give him all the support he needs to enforce the PNP and not keep him down through innuendoes and name-calling.

—LEOPOLDO C. BATALLA,
police senior superintendent and spokesman, Public Information Office, Philippine National Police, Camp Crame, Quezon City, 1111

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INQUIRER Visayas

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How not to build a dam for ₱120M

By Chito A. Fuentes
Balibar, Bohol

FOR MORE than a decade, an unfinished dam project worth ₱120 million has been one of Bohol's best-kept secrets.

It is not difficult to understand why. Supposed to be completed in 1999, the Talibon Small Reservoir Irrigation Project (TSRIP) in Guinsura, Talibon town has nothing much to show to residents and proposed beneficiaries today, except for a handful of scrunters and abandoned equipment.

In 1997, the provincial government, then headed by acting Gov. Concuncio Torralba, initiated a survey to determine the feasibility of building a dam here.

Judge Aurilino Pamaran of the Municipal Circuit Trial Court, who was the provincial planning and development coordinator at that time, recalled that Torralba ordered the survey because he wanted a dam to address the irrigation needs of Talibon and Ilan Islands towns.

Pamaran said the provincial irrigation officer, Calixto Bongo, did not find the project viable for self-sustaining.

Besides the dam proper, the project's other features in Talibon are:

On June 9, 1999, a memorandum of agreement was executed between the National Irrigation Administration and the Talibon Irrigators Association Inc. (TIAI) to lay the groundwork for the dam's construction. The signatories were then NIA Administrator Jose del Rosario Jr. and TIAI president Apolinario Arriaga, and the witnesses were Bongo and then NIA regional manager Perfecto Espejord.

Under the MOA, the NIA was to construct the small reservoir impounding project that would irrigate seven barangays—Jamiawa, San Agustin, Bal-ilihwud, Tinil, Anislag, Sto. Niño, San Pascual and San Isidro. It shall bear the cost of administrative services, investigation and preliminary survey, plan preparation and other pre-construction engineering services.

DRIVED Sold MC (John) at the proposed dam site.

Bidding result scrapped

Arriaga said the survey and pre-engineering work on the dam, situated some 6 km from the town proper, started before 1998.

Engr. Potenciano Sariguenha, former president of the Bohol Builders and Contractors Association (BBCA), recalled that in 1999, then Rep. Erico Aumentado (second district), who is now the governor, informed nonincumbents in a meeting that the Talibon reservoir project was ready for implementation.

In that meeting, according to Sariguenha, Aumentado revealed that G.M. Garcia offered the lowest bid of ₱120 million, which was "way below" the NIA estimate of ₱204.6 million.

Pessimistic that the contractor "would not perform satisfactorily" Aumentado lobbied with the NIA central office "not to award" the project in the winning contractor, the engineer said. Instead, the lawmaker asked that the NIA undertake the project by "force account" or by administration with the same outlay of ₱120 million, he said.

Sariguenha said that upon hearing about the situation, the BBCA moves to the NIA offering the local contractors' equipment for rent. Thereafter was "apparently denied," he said.

On Jan. 8, 1998, then NIA Administrator Orlando Sotomo wrote then President Fidel Ramos requesting authority to undertake the construction of the TSRIP by administration, instead of civil work contract.

The project "must be completed sooner to provide year-round irrigation to farmer-beneficiaries and increase their agricultural production," Soriano pointed out.

"The impounding structure is a 21-meter high earth dam with a crest length of 289 meters. The catchment area is 23.20 sq. km and the reservoir is estimated to store 6.6 million cubic meters of run-off water. The impounded water is estimated to provide and maintain the irrigation requirement of about 1,000 hectares of prime rice land."

Soriano also said that in the process of evaluation and before making an award to any proposed contractor, the NIA noted that the Bohol Provincial Irrigation Office (BPIO) has the organization and technical capabilities to undertake the project.

Stressing that "time is of the essence," he said the agency needed to curb the construction "to take advantage of the prolonged dry season period created by the El Niño phenomenon during 1998."

The BPIO would generate "additional savings," he added, as it would be using "available construction equipment which otherwise would be idle."

He said the BPIO had already submitted a revised program of work (POW) amounting to ₱139,307,231.12, which he described as "a decrease of ₱91,304,613.77 compared to the previously approved POW of ₱230,670,850.00."

Sariguenha said he lost track of the project until sometime in 2000, when he was surprised to learn that a building was constructed at the Department of Public Works and Highways regional office in Cebu City and the NIA Project Office in Ubay, Bohol, to the amounts of ₱16 million and ₱5 million, respectively, for the implementation of the same Talibon reservoir project.

Sariguenha, who was a NIA project manager before he retired in 1992, said it was only at this time when he realized that the ₱120-million project was never completed by the NIA.

On July 14, after compiling documents to support his claims, he lodged a complaint before the Visayas Ombudsman over the irregularity in the implementation of the TSRIP. The complaint was filed on behalf of an unspecified number calling itself the Federation Against Corruption, Oppression and Fraud Harassment (Sacrofo).

Sariguenha also claimed that based on a copy of the project's financial accomplishment report, the NIA had disbursed a total of ₱114,136,434.44 against the alleged "actual value of accomplishment" amounting to ₱139,307,231.12.

According to the "Updated Cost, Actual Accomplishments, and Remaining Works" as of Dec. 31, 1999, which was prepared and submitted by Arriaga, the project needed ₱127,472,004.24 for the remaining works since the revised estimated cost was already ₱520 million.

But Sariguenha said that based on his actual inspection at the project site made in November 2000, the only visible physical accomplishments were an office building, an access road leading to the reservoir site, a 15-meter access bridge and steel pipes.

What accomplishment?

One supposed accomplishment stated in the report, he said, was a dam embankment that cost ₱1.8 million. "How could the NIA have accomplished ₱48,095,081 for 'dam embankment' when the ongoing work is still on the foundation of the riverbed itself?" Sariguenha asked.

After reading the factsheet-complaint in a local paper, the Association of Concerned Filipinos of Talibon (Sacrofil) passed a resolution on Aug. 31 requesting Deputy Ombudsman for the Visayas Pedro Mire to immediately conduct an investigation on the NIA's handling of the project.

On Oct. 26, Sacrofil received a copy of a memorandum-directive dated Sept. 24 signed by graft investigation officer III Alejandro Bordeos addressed to Mire, through Director Virginia Odiaca Santiago.

In his "Final Evaluation Report," Bordeos recommended that Sacrofil's complaint be considered "closed and terminated" since it was already a duplication of an earlier complaint filed by Bacsafi before the Ombudsman.

The long wait, coupled with disappointment over the ill-fated project, has taken its toll on the complainants, and their patience was running short.

"It is simple: All they have to do is visit the site and assess the present status of the project and Ubay evaluator's based on the accomplishment report," Sariguenha noted.

Arriaga said TIAI was also concerned about the status of the ₱1.2-million funding equity that the farmers raised by giving up part of their wages for the labor component during the initial stage of the project.

"They say the money is there but we cannot be too sure," he said in Cebuano.

Leonora Iscayan then Siwayne Palacios said farmers, who constituted about 90 percent of the barangay population, had given up hope that the project will ever be realized.

Judge Pamaran said that while he was still optimistic that the project could still be salvaged, justice must be served and that those guilty of any anomaly should be made accountable.

Bongo has declined to answer questions raised about the project that was slated because of his accommodation.

He told the local papers that he would wait for the outcome of the Ombudsman's investigation and that he would only answer the charges "in the right forum."

Bongo insisted Inland that Sariguenha had less than noble motives, saying he was aware

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Across the NATION

Deadly bacteria returns; 5 people die

By Frank Cimatu
Mindanao Latest Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Meningococcemia, a fatal form of meningitis that already killed four people in Baguio City and Benguet in the past three months, has come back, killing five more residents here from Nov. 6 to 10, an official of the Department of Health in the Cordillera said.

The DOH has recorded 18 meningococcemia cases here and Benguet since August.

Dr. Antonio Bautista, DOH Cordillera technical director, said unlike in past cases which struck mostly children, the latest five fatalities were between 22 and 63 years old.

Bautista also said that unlike in past cases where epidemiologists could not find a clustering of cases, the recent cases seemed to have a common carrier.

He said the new outbreak started when one of the victims, a 43-year-old man from Mirador Hill here, died of meningococcemia on Nov. 6. The four other fatalities reportedly attended the man's wake and died between Nov. 17 and 19.

The fatalities, whose names were withheld by DOH, were from the villages of Dominican, Crystal Cave, Session Sikap in Camp 7, and Pugeo in La Trinidad, Benguet.

Bautista said the recent victims were all women, one of them a relative of the "index victim" or carrier. Three other victims are confined at the Baguio General Hospital while one was released from the hospital and declared out of danger.

Three confirmed to be suffering from meningococcemia are residents of San Carlos Heights in Baguio City and Alno and Pugeo in La Trinidad.

Bautista said 2003 has already removed the relatives of the victim and those who attended the carrier's wake to alert them. He said they were advised not to leave their houses in the next few days and take antibiotics for precaution.

Several hospitals in Baguio have begun prescribing antibiotics to all its patients as a "universal precaution." A nurse from a Baguio hospital said doctors in at least three hospitals ordered patients to take ciprofloxacin and rifampicin, both generic drugs.

Bautista said meningococcemia is a lasting infection that can kill a patient in a few hours after infection starts.

The infection is caused by bacteria known as *Neisseria meningitidis*, which is normally found in common throat disorders. Almost all cases in the past had affected children as DOH is now puzzled why it now affects older patients.

"When resistance to the bacteria is lowered, then the bacteria can attack the body," Bautista said.

Meningococcemia outbreak occurs during cold spells and can be transmitted by respiratory emission, he said.

Neisseria meningitidis is dangerous because it not only causes meningitis. Once it enters the bloodstream, it can cause the body to go into shock and can result in kidney failure or death in a few hours, Bautista said.

He said a victim's corpse cannot transmit the disease but it is possible that a person who visited the victim first could.

ENTRY to hospitals in Baguio City, such as the St. Louis University Hospital, greet with a warning against the infectious meningococcemia.

3 killed in dawn attack at parlor in Lucena City

LUCENA CITY—At least three persons were killed by two unidentified gunmen in the early morning of a nearby river, police quoted witnesses as saying.

The victims were rushed by their neighbors to a hospital in nearby San Pablo City but all died during the treatment from fatal gunshot wounds in different parts of the body.

The police found nine spent bullets from a 9mm revolver at the scene.

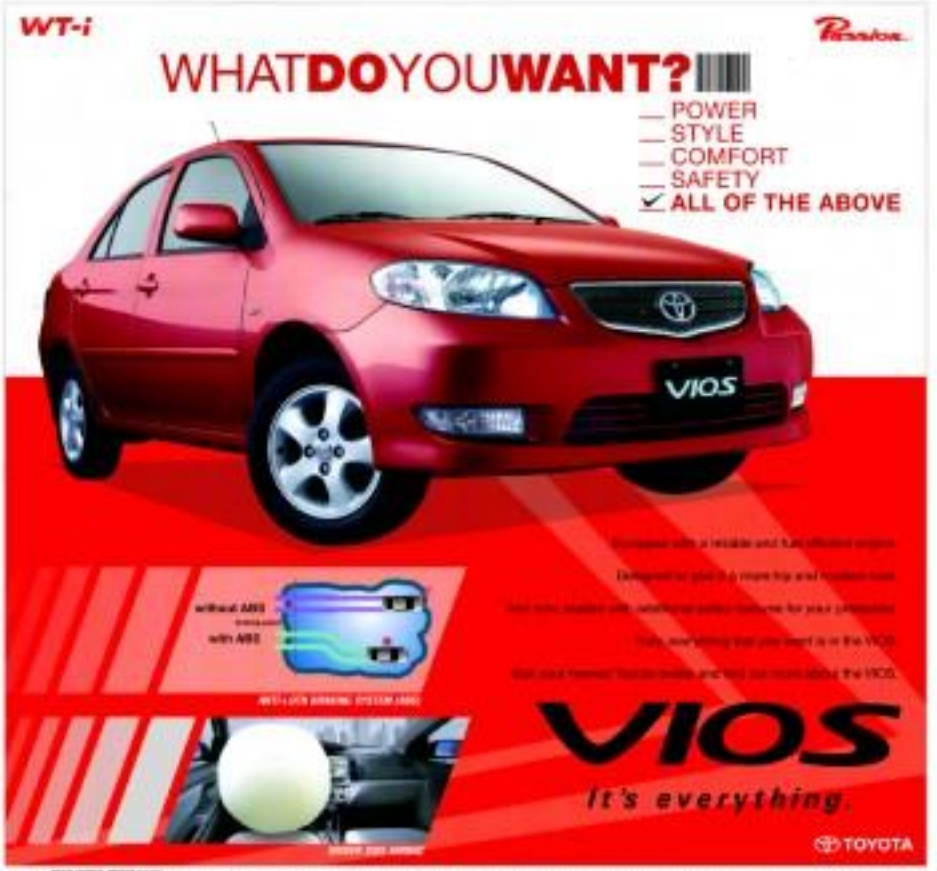
Chief Insp. Jeremias Magbanua, Dolores police station chief, said police investigators were focusing on a "drug related" angle. Delfin Mallari Jr., PIO head/Jun-Jun Bereza

Firm's blacklisting hailed

THE FOREIGN contractor earlier banned from bidding on projects of the Department of Public Works and Highways may find it difficult to get back government confidence after leaders of Quezon province hailed the decision of DPWH to blacklist the foreign contractor.

The China State Construction and Engineering Corp. will find it hard to get back the trust of Public Works Secretary Florante Soriquez, who earlier banned CSCEC from projects of the government's road infrastructure agency.

The firm was put on the blacklist for delays in the construction of the C-5/Bonifacio Global Interlink Expressway viaduct/Inga.



ROUNDUP

NPA burns truck

URDANETA, Pangasinan—40 armed men suspected here Tuesday's Army vehicle burned scrapyard truck loaded with coconut lumber last Wednesday, according to a police report, driver Sherlan Caraluy said he was kidnapped and held hostage for 24 hours.

Caraluy said he was driving his truck when he was stopped by armed men who identified themselves as members of the New People's Army. The men ordered him to get off the truck and transfer the cargo to another truck.

Caraluy said he was then kidnapped and held hostage for 24 hours.

Caraluy said he was then released and returned to his home.

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Distributed by NewspaperDirect

How not to build . . .

From page A17

about the whistle-blower's "real objective." He did not elaborate.

Seroje, however, virtually confirmed Sarigumba's account in a two-page advertisement placed in the Sunday Post, Tagbilaran City's weekly paper, detailing the expenses on the project, including P17,965,488.75 for dam embankment and a total actual accomplishment of P119,056,131.83.

The only marked disparity in figures was Seroje's claim that the total project cost was now P243,005,526.96.

With this claim, the P119 million disbursed so far was apparently good only for 49 percent of the project. As to whether the existing structures and improvements visible at the project site are actually worth P119 million is a question that the Ombudsman must confront.

By any measure, the government has unfinished business in Zamora. It is not just the completion of a multimillion-peso project that has raised false hopes among impoverished farmers. It also concerns the unmasking, prosecution and punishment of all those who had a hand in the P120-million dam scam.

After carnage, both sides now talking

Turn to page A1

The next morning it was on Nov. 23, Tuesday said, adding that the DOLE would do its best to oversee, rile the two camps.

The reopening of CBA negotiations, which was the purpose of the meeting, will coincide with the resolution of the conflict by Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, who earlier assumed jurisdiction over the dispute.

The workers were represented by Federico Sumulong, lawyer and Editor Cesperico of the Cebu, and Rene Galang, Elda Fingal and Ri-hido Gaudiosso of the United Lumina Workers Union (ULWU), of which Lorilla is a member. They were accompanied by lawyers Saul Sicat and Benita Bobiney.

The management's sole representative was lawyer Addison Cuevas.

The other DOLE officials present were Assistant Secretary Cresencio Cadiz and Mediator-Conciliator Board (NCMB) administrator Ramon Young, conciliator-mediator Maria Sarmo, and Glenda Cruz and Josefina Torres, directors of the NCMB-Region 1 and DOLE-Region 2, respectively.

Losing PTM a day

Tiger Mendoza, counsel for Hinabuka Lumina Inc., said the company was willing to resume CBA negotiations, but not with the union leaders who organized the strike.

He said the target still inside the factories was losing around P1 million a day since the strike started and barricades were put up on Nov. 6.

Mendoza would not speculate on how much the 6,000 hectare hacienda itself was losing on a daily basis, but said the quality of the sugar cane ready for harvest was said to deteriorate.

"The more it dries up, the less weight it would have," Mendoza said of the sugar crop in the plantation owned and controlled by the family of former President Gerardo Aquino.

Financial aid

He said Lumina management was saddened by the violent turn of events and was ready to extend financial aid to the workers who died or were injured as a result of the bloody dispersal.

He said as far as Nov. 6 when the first dispersal happened, management has opted to take a non-confrontational stand.

But Mendoza pointed out that the Philippine National Police had a "legal enforcement duty that is called in the Hacienda violence."

Mendoza said the families of the workers who died in the dispersal were entitled to P50,000 as financial aid under the existing CBA.

"But we also would like to think of other ways in which we can be of assistance," he said.

He stressed, however, that only the Hacienda's workers among the victims would be entitled to such benefits.

"Right now, the management is picking up the pieces. We'd like to go back to the negotiation table," Mendoza said.

But he said the management was constrained by law to talk with dead persons, since the valuator distancing themselves from the strike.

Embarrassing GMA

In Manila, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez described the Left as instigating the violent dispersal to embarrass President Macapagal-Arroyo at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting in Chile.

Gonzalez cited an investigation report that showed that the violence was premeditated and that leftist elements hatched the plot three months ago.

A three-page Army analysis report dated Nov. 17 said the incident was "the culmination of long months of instigation and propaganda activities to get the workers' sympathy and support for their illegal strike."

"The violence that erupted from the ranks of the strikers [was] obviously premeditated and aimed at challenging the authorities and provoking the public sympathy and police, said the report prepared by the 2nd Intelligence and Security Unit and purportedly based on "exhaustive documents" recovered from New People's Army (NPA) rebels killed in encounters in Pura, Tarlac, last Oct. 12.

"Oh, yes, that has been a scenario well-planned since August. If they were playing chess, they played their moves in advance," Gonzalez said, adding:

"This is part of the agenda of people who are agitating for a change of government. These are long-range plans."

Gonzalez said he and other Cabinet members—including Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes, and Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Eliseo Dela—met Thursday night and decided to have the National Bureau of Investigation to take the lead role in looking into the matter.

He said such a probe was necessary to "allay any suspicion that the PNP is investigating its own personnel who may be involved in the incident." He said this "may not as well" with the people, "who may perceive a whitewash."

Gonzalez said he had directed the NBI to determine if a crime was committed during the dispersal, if the PNP violated its rules of engagement, and if the DOLE's actions in such cases were "regular."

"I hope this will not affect the peace process [with communist rebels]," he said. "The government is very defending itself. We are sincere in the peace process. The problem is the sincerity of the other party."

'False scenario'

At the Hacienda in Barrio Cubi, Elena and Cadio workers marched a mile-and-a-half, calling on the Senate and the House to conduct "a speedy and impartial investigation" of the violence dispersal "so that truth may come out and the guilty brought to justice."

They expressed alarm at Ermita's "baseless conjectures" on the supposed involvement of the New People's Army in the violence and the strike.

"The Cuenegan family and the Hacienda Luisita management are the ones responsible for the guilty and escape criminal accountability," they said.

They also said Ermita's statements might "incite another violent attack on our center like since they now have permission to [shoot]."

Lt. Col. Romeo Dominguez, chief of the Armed Forces' Northern Luzon Command, had also speculated that NPA rebels were at the barricades on the day of the dispersal.

"The police recovered firearms in the vicinity where unidentified armed men, believed to be communist rebels[, had fired at random," he said.

But Gregorio Rosal, spokesperson of the Communist Party of the Philippines, said the NPA did not participate in the strike.

"Soldiers near the NPA responsible for the mobilization of thousands of farmers supporting the workers' strike," he said in a statement. "We condemn Mike Arroyo and the Cuenegas for instigating the dismissals of [workers] who supported the workers' strike."

Still missing

Elbez president Gatang said they were still looking for three missing members, including two farmhands from Negros Occidental hired by the hacienda as temporary workers.

Cadio president Ramos said there were also undetermined casualties and could not yet fully account for their people.

Galang called on Land Reform Secretary Nasario Villa to look in on the records of his office before issuing statements that no complaints had been filed against the stock distribution option (SDO) at Luisita. The SDO is among the issues raised by the workers during the strike.

SDO complaint

Galang said they had questioned the SDO and filed a petition for its review before the Department of Agrarian Reform during the term of Secretary Roberto Pagdanganan.

Earlier complaints were also filed during the terms of Secretaries Hernani Braganza, Horacio Morales Jr. and other DAR officials before them, Galang said. With reports from Blondie S. Rivera, Philip C. Palweo and Christian G. Esguerra in Manila, Jo Clemente, Tonette Orejas, Russell Arador and Rosalie Bacon, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Windmills at center of Ilocos slay probe

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by project proponent NorthWind Power Development Corp.

The project costs some P50 million (about 20.6 billion) and is funded by, among others, a P29-million soft loan and a P16.2-million grant from the Danish International Development Agency, or Danida.

The project's main features—a row of 15 giant turbines, each standing 70 meters high and with rotor blades measuring 40 meters—are likely to be the target of the assassins of Rangley, 57 km north of the provincial capital.

"It's the windmills. Rangel was also giving the barge-carrying equipment for the windmills a very hard time in finding a place there to get out the steel," said lawyer and Bantaoland chair Ferdinand Bonoan, a close Marcos associate.

Dimilen said the delay had nothing to do with the controversy surrounding the firm's dealings with the Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative or INEC.

Why was Marianos 'alarmed'?

He dismissed as baseless allegations of involvement in the killing on July 31 of land-leasing dealer commissioner Roger Mariano.

"It doesn't [matter] because there's one more name in all that," Dimilen said this week.

The killings of journalists—more than 50 have been murdered since democracy was restored in 1986—have gone unabated. Earlier this month, environmentalist Eddie Ilagan was gunned down on Polillo island, and Bombo Radyo broadcaster Fernan Hinolan was killed in Iloilo, Aklan.

Last week, Ilocos similar events, tagging Mariano's killing filed another charges against police intelligence officer Apolonio Medrano, who was allegedly trying to locate an Inarat guest. The suspected suggestion has also surfaced in the police.

A "police team" of the National Press Club, headed by Gaweno Philippines' associate publisher Samuel Banaglog, rules it a former "police-related" incident. Rangley's murder was "work-related."

Mariano was "allowed to prevent him from further exposing anomalies [in the Inarat]," the NPC and INEC, including a promise of P2-million in campaign funds, the officials who had supported of the coup, a senior's plan to become a P1.56-million loan from the Development Bank of the Philippines," Banglay told the Inquirer.

Dumlao challenges accusers

Banglay offered no proof to back his claim.

INEC president Roy Ilao strongly denied the allegation.

Dimilen said: "If these people are [pointing] on securing Rings, they have to prove their accusation. If they have any evidence they should go to the police or the Commission on Human Rights."

"But instead of doing so, they went straight to media. That only shows that they have nothing to support their claim. They only want to attack somebody in public to cover up and conceal the misfits in the process," he said.

"How can I just accuse anybody of ordering somebody killed. Where's their proof? I challenge them to produce proof. Otherwise, I'm very sure they will sue their own words," stressed the nephew of Gov. Dumlao, the late musician and literary adviser to President Ferdinand Marcos.

Dimilen said Mariano, who asked no one to shoot [him], claimed in an interview that "the hit job was carried out by goons, all leftovers from the previous election. They were hired by local politicians. Even the [mayor] is involved," pointing to Jesus Dureza, including Rogel's killers, decided to stay behind."

No intent to kill

"Actually, the people behind [Mariano] just didn't want him killed. They were just ordered to harass him. There's one of the informants I got. Apparently things got out of hand..." the police interview claimed.

The police information "came from several sources in the province, mostly people I've known for years."

He also did not show the locations any evidence to support his allegations.

Interviewed in September 69 logs, Mahoh Dilg, the politician said Mariano was not interested in the case.

"Everything is out of this. When he [Mariano] was killing, he was on road," he said.

Mariano has denounced the murder, calling it "another blow to the right of suspects to free speech." Of Mariano, he said: "He was always on the offensive of [his crusade against corruption]."

The NPC "probe team", in a report, made several claims, including:

- An alleged P1-million bribe offer to Mariano's family if they would not testify before the police.
- Mariano's family "did not receive him from proceeding with his report. The report did not say who made the bribe offer.
- Another "bribe offer" allegedly by NorthWind, amounting to P2 million, which INEC officials in exchange for their signatures to a Memorandum of Understanding between INEC and NorthWind.

The report said that Mariano, in his interview, had said he, too signing off "that he will expose a lumberlord during his next Monday commentary."

"Regrettably, his murderers prevented him from doing so," the report added.

The report, according to Rangley, said that Mariano had "tried to highly anomalous the use by NorthWind of INEC to borrow P100 million from DBP to finance the P50-million project, which is supposed to be the classic case involving the mobilization [post Manila flag ceremonies purpose."

The report, which Rangley said had been sent to Malacañang, was unsigned.

Rangley however, affixed his signature to the copy he gave the Inquirer.

Controversial MOU

"There make it appear those are highly-secretive documents when in fact they are public documents," Dimilen said, heralding the business with a copy of the MOU which provides that:

- INEC will purchase loans from financial institutions for the procurement, construction and installation of a 50-kV transmission line from Bangui to Laoag and a power substation in Laoag.
- NorthWind will extend full support to INEC in the preparation, filing and negotiation of the said loan.
- INEC will pay for the principal amount of the loan, while NorthWind will pay up to nine percent of the interest.
- A final agreement will be executed by both parties.

It commendation of agreement were executed by INEC, DBP and NorthWind last Aug. 13.

Antonio disowns report

Dimilen cautioned the NPC team's allegations as "figments of Rangley's imagination."

NPC president Antonio Nakpil has himself said that, contrary to Rangley's claim, the report failed to unearth "pieces of evidence."

"What evidence? There's all kinds of suspicions here. [The RPC] is not adopting that report," Antonio said, adding that he had "no plan of forwarding the report to Malacañang."

"It's part of a personal effort to discredit INEC and put all of us in a bad light," INEC's Ruiz said of the report. Dimilen dismissed it as a "big joke."

"I was laughing loudly and also laughing within. It shows how desperate they are," he said, adding that the report was actually trying to prove one thing, then came up with a conclusion that's way off the mark," Dimilen said.

Dimilen said Rangley had "no strategy left."

"He probably couldn't accept the fact that I had exposed his ex-

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2 groups claim control of union

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union president, especially with the support of the Lumo workers for the strike and the barricades.

He said that his referendum area still in question, and that he could still hold on to his position as president.

The other group, which does not support the strike, claims that Ronnie Abramora is the legitimate president of the Elbez. It has survived Galang of violating negotiations in filing a notice of strike early this month.

Abramora's group enjoys the recognition of the National Congress Union of the Sugar Industry of the Philippines as well as the salaried, adjacent of Hacienda Luisita Inc. on the negotiations for the collective bargaining agreement.

Galang was elected president of the Elbez earlier this year but was removed in August. Abramora, on the other hand, was elected in the first week of October.

Abramora told the Inquirer that with Galang's intransigence, the union board came up with a resolution electing him to replace Galang as union president.

Exchange

But Galang told the Inquirer: "Nobody believes him [Abramora].

"How can he be a leader when he hides from people? He was not even elected by the general membership."

Galang accused Abramora of having gone to a supposed union meeting amongst by the Hacienda management.

Abramora, however, denied that he was the management's man. Instead, he said, he was able to muster seven of the 12 votes of the board of directors.

"It's true that I was not elected by the general membership," Abramora said in a phone interview. "But under the constitution and bylaws of the union, the board of directors can replace the president. And when he is no longer able to execute his duties."

Galang also said even those who did not work in the Hacienda but lived here as stable is could not go to work because of the barricades and the fear of being caught in another eruption of violence.

"We trust the authorities. We are praying very hard for a fair investigation. We just want that to be resolved so we can get on with our lives. It's affecting 60% of people who are not involved," he said.

Our Lady of Lourdes has around 15,000 parishioners from 10 barangays, all of whom live inside or near the hacienda.

Yet the committed parties talk. Do not ride on the same emotions. We don't know who was wrong, but what we know is life here. We want peace," Espano said.

He added: "[Galang] violated countless provisions of the constitution and by-laws of the union when he declared the strike."

Not authorized

Asked if Galang could be held accountable for the deaths and injuries in Sunday's bloody dispersal, Abramora said: "That is true."

He said the strike and the barricades were not authorized by the union and did not pass a strike vote.

But Galang countered: "With 5,000 workers participating in the strike, the strike vote is no longer necessary.

"I challenge [Abramora] to submit himself to the general membership. If the people no longer want me as president, I will go."

Cadiz support

Galang's presence at press day's meeting between the representatives of management and labor at Luisita implemented under between the two leaders is supporting the support of the Cadiz. See story on Page A1.

But officials of the Department of Labor and Employment reported to the media on the bloody dispersal, saying the incident might soon be brought to the DOLE for resolution. With a report from the union leaders

Homeless . . .

Turn to page A2

and sensitive appropriate to his age and style. Schwarzenegger continues to split his week between Los Angeles and Sacramento, commuting by private jet. When in Sacramento, he stays at the Hyatt Hotel at a cost of $1,000 a month, paid for, until now, with campaign funds.

California once had an official governor's residence, a large white Italianate Victorian, but Sonny Bongo refused to live there, insisting that the place was a firetrap.

AP Photo

OVER Luce and nuns were there in San Francisco, protesters joined President Arroyo outside the St. Ignatius church of the University of San Francisco where she received an honorary degree. She was on a two-day working visit on her way to the Apec summit in Santiago, Chile. AL SAN/INQUIRER

GMA: Time to clear up RP-US misunderstanding

SAN FRANCISCO Mayor Gavin Newsom presses President Arroyo with the medallion key to the City by the Bay after she received an honorary degree from the Rev. Charles Geraldo, University of San Francisco board chair, and San Stephen Priests S.J., university president. AL SAN/INQUIRER

Ms Arroyo's speech was applauded four times by some 1,000 students, faculty members and Philippine officials who packed the St Ignatius Church for the ceremonies.

Mr. Arroyo said the historic US-Philippine relationship would continue to be and could always be enhanced.

She called on Bush to lead the world in a new era of renewed alliances and common effort and to work together not against traditional friends and allies in a new world shadowed by global terrorism.

"With his victory in the recent election, President Bush has a new mandate. In his words, it now bears a new opportunity to reach out to the whole nation. I believe, however, that this new term is a new opportunity to reach out not just to the whole nation but to the whole world," Ms Arroyo said.

Not just a military power

She said America's held the potential of unifying the world and that the start of a new presidential term for Bush was a "time for renewed hope."

She added : "The challenge to the United States is no longer just from a hegemon bound to strengthen the role of America in the world or the renewed hope, freedom and peace. We are confident America will continue to take up that mantle of leadership."

Ms Arroyo reminded the United States that its responsibility in the world now extend to prominent roles in market, financial affairs, issues of environment and technology, consumer of resources, military power and diplomatic arena.

"America's relations with the world ... go beyond the military and the economic. They ought to encompass the realms of understanding, culture and values," she said.

Bump in the road

Rep. Avro Filipino Santiesteban, noting the strong US-Philippine ties under World War II, expressed confidence that Ms. Arroyo and Bush would manage to smooth out their differences.

"We need such a[n] effort," said Abe Santos, retired president of the Filipino-American Democratic Council, citing the Philippines' dependence on US financial aid and its support of Bush in the war against terror.

"Maybe this will be a renewal of better understanding between the two sides," he said.

Rodel Rodis, secretary of the City College of San Francisco, said the tensions between Manila and Washington were just a bump in the road.

Anti-corruption pact

After the initial excitement of displacement, there were no positive actions from the United States that would have attracted interest further," he said.

Ms. Arroyo proposed an anti-terrorism agreement among the Shanghai five and the signatories to the joint declaration between the United States and the Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean) on countering terrorism, to help stem the movement and operations of terrorists.

The Shanghai 5 is comprise Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

George Canseco, 70; songs live 'Ngayon at Kailanman'

By Nestor Cuartero
Inquirer Southern Luzon

Transcribe the full text of the obituary.

Solons . . .

By Jaime Laude
Inquirer Visayas

Transcribe the full text of the article.

BUSINESS

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RP firms now less optimistic–BSP survey

By Doris C. Dumlao

BUSINESS confidence significantly weakened this quarter as skyrocketing oil prices spooked the usually cheerful Christmas season, according to the latest Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas survey.

In a briefing yesterday, BSP Assistant Governor Diwa Guinigundo said the business outlook had turned less optimistic despite the anticipated increase in consumer demand during the holidays, higher incomes due to the Christmas season and the influx of export receipts and remittances from overseas Filipino workers.

Based on the BSP's latest quarterly business expectations survey, the overall business outlook diffusion index (DI) for the current quarter slid to 18.6 percent from 30.3 percent in the last survey. The business outlook DI for the first quarter of 2006 likewise declined sharply to 21.3 percent from 46.7 percent.

"The significant decline in DI indicates unprecedented less optimistic but still positive expectations on business and economic performance for the next two quarters," Guinigundo said.

The DI is the difference between the percentage of firms that answered in the affirmative and those that answered negative for a given indicator. A positive DI indicates a favorable view when measuring confidence levels.

"The rise in oil prices is really the biggest underlying factor. It is the wild card, the unexpected variable," Guinigundo said.

Aside from oil prices, which surged to record highs since the Gulf War, respondents attributed the decline in their optimism to the increasing cost of raw materials, higher inflation, high interest rates and the government's fiscal crisis.

Guinigundo said there was more optimism in the third quarter of '05 as year-to-date oil prices eased between August and September. He added that there was widespread expectation that the right use reforms measures drawn up by the government would be legislated.

The BSP survey had 1,000 respondents coming from companies of different sizes, of which 327 are operating in the National Capital Region and 173 outside the NCR. The industry constituents, which also cover trade and services sectors, are represented in the survey.

The DI for businesses in Metro Manila translated to 17.5 percent from 12.5 percent. Respondents in the provinces turned out to be more optimistic, although the index likewise dropped to 19 percent from 23.4 percent in the previous quarter.

Expectations of a slowdown in the economy were further strengthened as majority of the firms projected lower increases in the volume of business in the fourth quarter and in the first quarter of 2006.

ELECTRONICS REBOUND

September imports surge 14.8%

By Michelle V. Remo

MERCHANDISE imports rose 14.8 percent in September largely due to the strong rebound in demand for raw materials of the electronics sector.

The National Statistics Office yesterday reported that imports for September stood at $3.3 billion, or higher than the $2.9-billion level recorded during the same month last year.

This brought the January-to-September expenditure for foreign goods to $28.23 billion, or 9 percent higher than the $27.09 billion posted in the first nine months of 2004.

The September imports also widened the country's balance of trade for the month to a surplus of $240 million from last year's $209 million. The NSO earlier reported that September exports stood at $3.04 billion.

Accounting for a 63.6-percent share of the total import bill for the month, demand for electronics raw materials reached $1.55 billion, or 9.2 percent higher than last year's. The increase was a reversal of the August import performance, which registered a 0.9-percent decline to $1.44 billion.

"This is an encouraging sign

(continued on B2)

3rd quarter GDP growth seen at 6%

THE NATIONAL Economic and Development Authority said the economy, as measured by the gross domestic product, likely grew by 6 percent in the third quarter of this year, or almost outstripping its 4.01 percent growth in the first half.

Neda Director General Romulo Neri yesterday said that the 6-percent GDP growth was partly attributed to the strong showing of the agriculture sector.

The farm sector, which accounts for about a fifth of the economy, grew by 7.9 percent in the third quarter from a year earlier largely because of higher construction and rice.

The expansion of the agriculture sector was higher than Neda's earlier projection of 5.3 percent, Neri noted that it was also much faster than the International Monetary Fund's projection of 3.6 percent. Michelle V. Remo

DISCLOSURES

RP, Japan iron out kinks in trade pact

TOKYO—Japan and the Philippines have reached a broad agreement on a bilateral free trade agreement, a Japanese official said Friday.

The agreement was reached between Japanese Trade Minister Shoichi Nakagawa and his Philippine counterpart Cesar Purisima in talks on the sidelines of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meetings in Santiago, Chile.

"The broad agreement was reached to allow us to finalize the FTA to be signed later," said the Japanese trade ministry official.

The official declined comment on when it would be signed, but the Jiji Press news agency said they would happen later this month when Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi meets President Macapagal-Arroyo in Laos.

The breakthrough came as Nakagawa and Purisima neared an disagreements were cited today officials said by Kyodo, the Kyodo News service said.

Sakaguwa was quoted by Kyodo as saying the two sides cut a compromise on the tariffs on Japanese steel imports after agreeing earlier that a limited number of Philippine nurses and caregivers would be allowed to work in Japan on condition they pass Japanese qualification examinations.

Japan has also agreed to keep tariffs on bananas and pineapples from the Philippines, but the two sides maintained a decision on sensitive sugar imports by agreeing to continue talks four years after the FTA takes effect, Kyodo said.

But the Philippines, Japan is the largest source of imports, which exports mainly electric, into and computer parts, while Japan is its second largest market for exports, mainly of machinery and farm products, after the United States. AFP

DOJ decision seen to boost exports

By Bonnie W. Domingo

THE DECISION of the Justice department to exclude international air cargo forwarders from foreign ownership limits in terms to boost efforts to enhance exports, according to Trade Secretary Cesar A. Purisima.

In the Department of Justice Opinion No. 90 series 2004 dated Nov. 8, the DOJ said it had gone back to an opinion issued on Sept. 11, 1986 which stated that the requirement of 60-percent Filipino ownership did not apply to international air freight forwarders but only to domestic air transport.

The DOJ said it issued the opinion "in view of the general significance of foreign air cargo operations in facilitating international trade and spurring economic growth."

The decision reverses Opinion No. 29, issued in February 1999, which said that international air cargo handlers were subject to the nationality requirement under the 1987 Constitution.

"The reversal acknowledges the importance and contribution of international air freight forwarders in our economy," Purisima said. "These foreign companies are willing to invest only in introducing the country into the preferred destinations for international business."

The previous DOJ opinion on foreign ownership drew protests from foreign business groups. The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, for instance, said the limitation hampered the development of the country as an international hub for logistics.

Ad space is donated by the Philippine Daily Inquirer

India, Asean wrap up talks on Early Harvest Program

By Rainier M. Dumlao

THE ASSOCIATION of Southeast Asian Nations and India have wrapped up negotiations on the format for the reduction and removal of tariffs under an Early Harvest Program.

The program will open the way for a free trade agreement between India and the region, Department of Trade and Industry officials said.

According to the DTI, representatives of the Asean Economic Ministers and India endorsed the EHP format during a meeting held in Indonesia last September.

For the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, Thailand and Brunei,

the EHP will be implemented on Jan. 1, 2005 and Oct. 31, 2005.

The program will last three years longer, or until Oct. 31, 2010, for the newer Asean members Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia and Myanmar.

However, officials said the Asean-India trade negotiating committee failed to finalize talks on the rules of origin (ROO) and the FTA itself. The steps are seen to mark the implementation of the EHP this coming January.

The DTI said the failure to complete negotiations on the ROO was due to fundamental policy differences—Asean was pushing for a set of rules that encouraged Asean regional sourcing, while India wanted rules that made this less possible.

In a related development, Asean and China finalized their agreement on trade in goods at the 17th Asean-China Joint negotiating committee meeting held in Beijing in October.

Trade Undersecretary Thomas G. Aquino said the Asean Economic Ministers and China's Minister of Commerce would sign the agreement when they meet in Vientiane, Laos, later this month.

The agreement comprises 23 articles and specifies rules effective on Jan. 1, but commitments would take effect on July 1 to ease implementation, Aquino said.

September . . .

From page B1

for exports," according to Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri, who is also director general of the NEDA.

Neri explained that the increase in demand for inputs of the electronics industry indicated that it was expecting a growth in exports.

Importations of mineral fuels, lubricants and related products reached $907.26 million and accounted for an 11.6-percent share of the September import bill. This was 37 percent higher than the previous year's $297.21 million.

The third top imports were industrial machinery and equipment at $145.22 million, or 4.3 percent higher than the $139.38 million in September last year. Transport equipment followed with $111.83 million.

Other major imports for the month were crude pam, inbitos, made up articles and wood products, $92.24 million; iron and steel, $92.11 million; telecommunication equipment and electrical machinery, $91.31 million; plastics, $82.82 million; chemicals, $61 million, and non-ferrous metal, $44.19 million.

Mga inang ating nakakakita, ngayon ay panatag ang isip
At ang mga health clinic na dati'y nag-uumapaw sa pasyenteng may diarrhea, ngayon nalilo ang bilis. "Wala magpiro na 'yung sa amin," ayon kay Erwan Sobrido, residente ng Bgy. Manggahan, Cainta.
Ang nanging maghapo – bilig ni dati'y kinukuha kung saan-saan, ngayon galing na lamang sa isang lugar: Manila Water, isang Ayala company.

Sa "Taloy Para sa Barangay" project, pinabilis ng Manila Water ang mga 828 km. ng mala pipes at distribution lines para makaagpahatid ng tubig sa 1.2 milyong tao. Isang pinyaktong may investment na P8 bilyon. Kaya ang tubig, di lang nagiging masagana. Dahil dumadaloy na mga buong pipes, naging garantisadong safe pa ito.
At simula pa lang ito. Sa kasilang Bo7 taon, may inaasal pang bubbong ang gagawin ng Manila Water para maabot nito ang pagtitiwala lang sa mga barangay ay...gatbuhos.
Manila Water
Ang tubig sa gatbuhos

PROPERTY

John Cesar D. Mangosong

Rosy outlook for second homes seen

Text and photos by Charles E. Bolano

ONE of the alternating segments of an otherwise lackluster real estate number is bubbling up in coastal towns, mountain towns and other vacation spots.

Individuals and families who have been thinking about buying a second home for get-aways, vacations, investment or retirement are growing in number and they are looking at these places.

This trend comes as no surprise to real estate developers: firm Landco Pacific Corp., which has developed two highly successful residential beach resorts in Mesaglo, Batangas (Peninsula de Punta Fuego and Terrazas de Punta Fuego), as well as resorts-cum-residential estate in Lemery, Batangas (Terrazas Punta Taguetod and another in Silang, Cavite (Woodcrest Leisure Estate).

"Things have really picked up in recent years. We see a lot of people who are bringing money that would have invested somewhere else," said Landco's Alfred Green Jhurgos III.

Different atmosphere

Green Jhurgos believes home buyers wanted a change of atmosphere—some place that would offer them a different kind of ambiance that Metro Manila cannot provide.

"They want a place that would make them feel relaxed and close to nature. The preference nowadays is similar to our farm lot property where our residents can enjoy a simple and uncomplicated lifestyle," he said.

To prove his point, he revealed that the Peninsula de Punta Fuego has been long been sold in 2000 and the second phase, the Terrazas de Punta Fuego, launched in 2003, is already developing portions of the adjacent Mesaglo Batangas property to accommodate the growing community of landowners and full residents of this exclusive seaside community.

Generally OK

Green Jhurgos' rosy outlook for second home property will continue despite the current economic situation of the country.

"We're generally okay, in light of what's happening. Of course we are affected by several glitches, like rising prices, unsteady foreign exchange, and yet, even at the height of the crisis a few months ago, everything went normal as developers were able to adjust to the situation," he explained.

He added that no matter what crisis the country may face, developers won't be affected to much or long as they will be able to position their products well to their intended market.

Said Green Jhurgos: "We remain optimistic despite the looming fiscal crisis. We have to work together. Remember that we are all on the same boat."

Condos doing well

One example he cited was the condos that are doing well these days.

"People are shifting insofar as their preference for their first homes are concerned. They are going back to Metro Manila rather than going to an area that is far-removed from it," he said.

According to him, the worsening traffic condition is contributing to their decision to look for homes near their place of work or urban centers.

"That's why our will restore the condo boom in Metro Manila. People nowadays prefer to live near the place of work or urban centers," said Green Jhurgos said.

He said developers have changed their marketing strategy. They made existing condos more affordable to client buyers by offering more flexible payment terms.

"Still people don't mind waiting for years for their unit to be delivered and are willing to pay the installments, so long as the developer is reputable," he said.

WORLD-CLASS: residential beach resorts and condominiums are mushrooming in coastal towns like Nasugbu in Batangas.

Marketing strategy

For second homes, Green Jhurgos said the strategy is to ensure that these buyers get more than they pay for.

"We make sure that when they purchase from us they get more than what others can provide for a similarly priced package," he said.

He added that it's just a matter of how one effectively uses the four Ps of marketing (product, price, place and promotion).

Green Jhurgos said with their property they target those who have the ability to purchase the values—people who have a couple of tens of millions of pesos and would dream of owning a second home in Tagaytay, Laguna, Cavite or Batangas.

MAGANDA: Enough reason to build a second home is the natural beauty of the surroundings, which provides a perfect backdrop for natural-looking outdoors

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Super

style . urban living .

Streamlining your Tagaytay weekend

By Tito Paz
Photos by Boots Thoma

AFTER a two-hour trek to the highlands of Tagaytay, we reached Gourmet's Café, where we spotted four men in black, alternative-looking regulars about to strum their way into our consciousness.

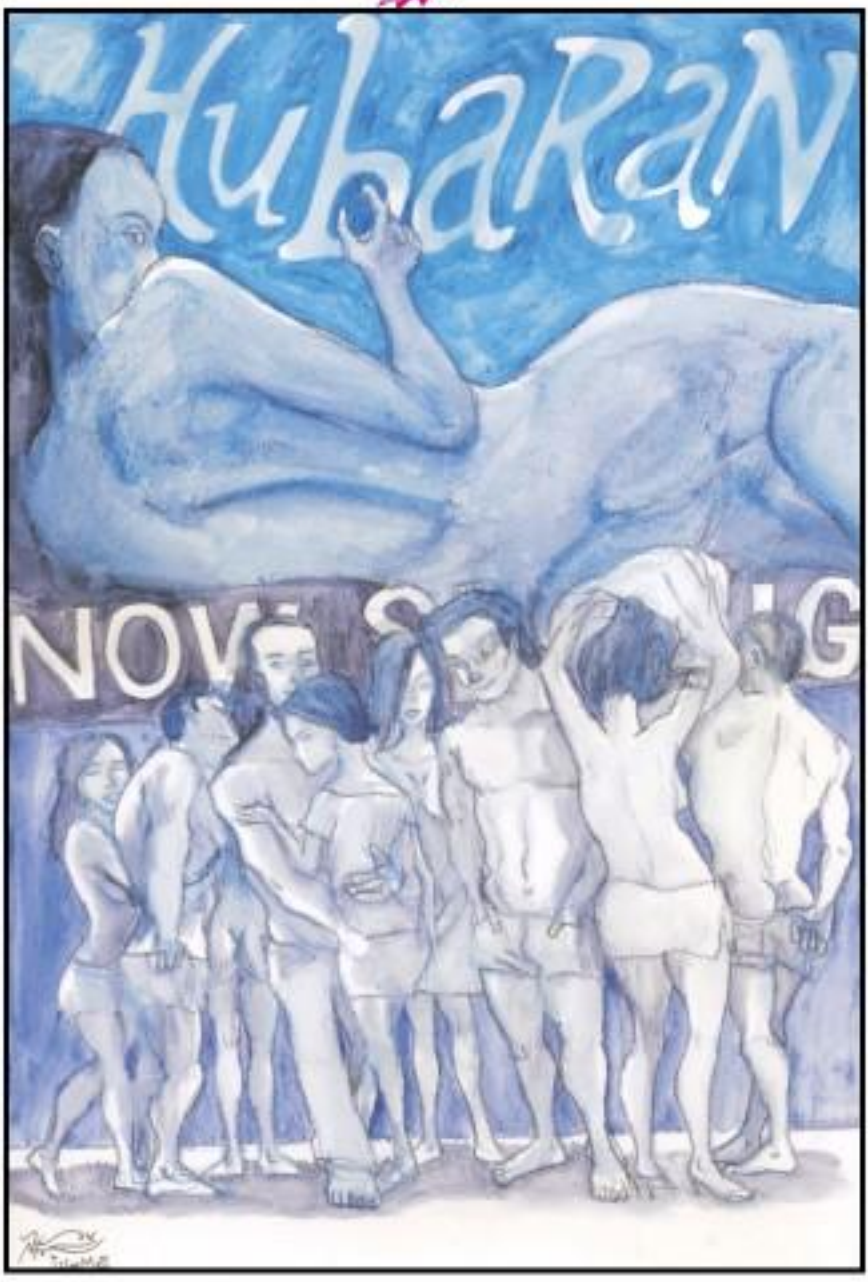
"Sing God, Sun and Other," their name. Freddie Santos, introduced themselves as his full-bearded members

for a rip-roaring edgy-metal trip.

"Hallelujah hallelujah chameleon," they had whispered. They sang with the excitement of a college band out to impress the dudes—just hop here, pass them hand.

I later found myself swaying my

TWISTED SOLUTION
Head over to Tagaytay's Gourmet Café and savor the mood of December



It's showtime

There's no room for wallflowers in our so-called generation of strippers. If you've got it, you might as well flaunt it.

Text by Gino de la Paz
Original artwork by Jason Mesa

IT'S OFFICIAL: Today's generation of teens and twenty-something things knows that they look good. It doesn't take a conspiracy theorist to come up with that idea. I mean, just take a long hard look. The city's universities, night spots and other locations that are on the right side of happening are crawling with media-genic youth. And really, now's the best time to be young.

Perhaps it's because we were brought up to an age of better nutrition, easy-to-use technology or even cooler television, but it seems that we're more fitness-obsessed, straighter-toned and, to some, self-pressing than previous age groups in recent history. In January this year, become Lifestyle columnist Thelma Sioson San Juan even went on to dub us a "generation of strippers." Citing the ease with which a garden-fresh crop of good-looking dropped from the last year's Miss to Mody Calendar, she said, "Indeed this is a generation that's ready for its close-up." With that thrown down, I really wanna know—how did we become so exhibitionistic anyway?

Presentation skills

First of all, we may have gone out of our mind with the presentation skills as a people (across to the times we live in. With easy access to everything from fashion trends to sprawling new ideologies, everyday life has become more dog-eat-dog than ever before. Survival, not to mention distinction, now depends on one's ability to market, outlast and outpace the competition. "Work it" has never been so applicable. Just ask Zoolander.

No hang-ups

Now, we may have a higher-than-usual flaunt factor because simply put, we're comfortable with our bodies and personalities. Fitness is next to happiness and as a result, we don't have the angst that gets in the way of achieving greater things.

Ease with the spotlight

Last and most important, viewers and fans seem extremely spoiled for choice these days. How can we be otherwise? With a glut of consumer products aimed at our combined purchasing might and television shows starring people just like us, our relentless camera-readiness shouldn't come as a total shocker. We are the world? Apparently.

This sense of entitlement could be misconstrued as arrogance, but in fact, it's a sign that the balance of power currently rests in our direction and we have the power to create positive change. Our generation's fearlessness and alleged overconfidence may actually be a good thing because when society challenges us to stand up and show them what we've got, we'll be ready for it. After all, we've been training most of our lives and we're ready to flaunt. Carpe diem, it's showtime.

Streamlining your Tagaytay weekend

From page 17

hand to their local and swinging my fingers to their groove. Much later, their goosebumps-inducing rendition of "Bless in the Morning" got solid applause from the audience.

You should not expect edgy, angsty music. We want to Tagaytay, for God's sake. And these guys will make sure your weekends (that's short for Tagaytay weekends) are zero-y (No static.

"Too much freedom in terms of musical choices will result to lack of direction. With the group's constituencies on 90s to '00s feel good music, Streamline roots sticks in cross breed of retro-acoustic groove, "Foolish step of the four countenance who have gotten to love each other, temperaments, hypochondria and all.

So from U2 to The Calling to Michael Jackson, these guys are Streamline of by your non-straightforward.

Joey Arvani

I am Streamline's resident guitarist, pianist, vocalist and "leader"

The soundtrack of my life would include "River of Dreams" by Billy Joel.

The thing I love most about performing in Tagaytay is the ambiance, it's very relaxing.

Joel Gana

I am Streamline's resident vocalist, guitarist, percussionist and the guy

The soundtrack of my life would include Forever Love, Color Me Bold, Bless in the Morning, Change yourself before it's late, and Happy man....I'm a Happy person

The thing I love most about performing in Tagaytay is the weather, and the people who go there for us, and our gourmet's family!

Oliver Mata

I am Streamline's resident guitarist, vocalist, technician/stage engineer

The soundtrack of my life would include Oh soundtrack to "Transformers: The Movie," "Why Should I Cry For You" by Moy, "After All," and "To Where You Are"

The thing I love most about performing in Tagaytay is the people, it actually feels like a second home out here, and the weather is great

Ram Martinez

I am Streamline's resident violist ("fiber"). Talking during his gigs and after. Going after, remember: Oh, yeah....Take-a-nap!

The soundtrack of my life would include Oh chorus from Sesame Street, and some songs from Elton and Rivers Cuomo

The thing I love most about performing in Tagaytay is the ambiance and weather. The people can be so-so.

Streamline will have their live recording tonight at Gourmet's Cafe in Tagaytay.

FOUR MEN AND A STREAMLINED MELODY: Joel Gana, Oliver Mata, Ram Martinez and Joey Arvani chilling at the second floor of their soundhouse, Gourmet's Cafe

Sunday belly dancing fever

"The dance is a poem of which each movement is a word."

-Mata Hari

By Pam Parker
Photos by Willy Sio

FRIDAY, the perfect formula for your Sunday.

One auditorium + dedicated dancers + skilled musicians + belly dancing + flamenco + jazz.

To celebrate the culture of dance, Corazon Cruz is directing Show It Off, a presentation which will showcase three different kinds of dance—belly dancing, flamenco and jazz.

Cruz, whose passion for dance was awakened by the introduction to Hawaiian dance when she was six, began formal ballet training at the early '80s. In 1984, she discovered belly dancing and wanted to study it fervently, training with Hungarian Imrahim and her Egyptian mentor Rajiv Deramchian. She also went to Spain, Australia and the US to study with professional Spanish Flamenco teachers and Gypsy dancers.

"My devotion and love of this art form gave me the drive and courage to create this recital ... I believed the magic of expression through dance. In this show, we will see that we have created an interesting mix of jazz, hip-hop, belly dance and flamenco."

The show will feature dance group's students, including Dona Patricia Valdez, Lucy Torres-Gomez, Aleta Abraham, Dona Tuazon-de, Liz Alonzo, Mary Ann Lucero, Jill Acosto and Gia Apolo.

Show It Off is presented by Sine, Inst Skin Solutions and the Philippine Daily Inquirer and sponsored by The Picture Company, Hue, Urban Spa, Dove, Max, L, Bioclethesis, Divine Platinum, Bleyade Gold, Collinsonite, Skinfil, POIO, Jabatac Gymnastic Institute and is for the benefit of the Heart Info Foundation.

Watch Show It Off at the Exotic F Remulla Auditorium at the BCIC Plaza Avida on the Internet All Parts' Avenue on Nov. 23, 2004, at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available at the gate.

NO WONDER, one cry

Life behind bars

IT IS my crime of passion as the midnight hour sacrifices itself to the new day.

Affixed with interminable insomnia and an eternal shiver for a little spilled spirits in my system, I always rock for a home away from home, a little space where I imbibe good energies with good people to sustain.

But the mantra "Copa Stories," to seize the night and engage in the sacred art of good conversation, from Manila to Mexico, Boracay to Bali, Sydney, Siargao to Siem Reap, traveling in the past three years as a Lonely Planetarist, I am only my creation as my compass and the worth of Bob Marley as my inner guide to find that "home," that nocturnal pitstop—a cozy little bar. Once I find it, I become the most loyal customer for as long as I can stay (or until my visa runs out) and let each night simply unto itself exit.

Call it causality if you will, but yesterday afternoon, I found my bar to call home. I was walking around, alone, along the Pacific coastline of Puerto Escondido, a surfer's haven on the extreme southern shore of Mexico. I was looking for a little place to park myself and have a nice cold beer while watching my favorite TV show—the sunset. There I saw the familiar rasta colors of red, yellow and blue painted on a little bar. As I walked closer to take a look, I saw two signs: "Bob Marley was here" and another, "Peace and Love." That was all I needed. I had found my place on the other side of the Pacific!

I took instant friends with the owners of the bar, two 30-year-old Indian Indonesians who asked me where I was from, and after telling them I was from Las Islas Filipinas, that sparked an instant friendship based on a healthy dose of curiosity. That afternoon, I shared a most beautiful, free concert together with them and this, um... topless French chick. I guess they enjoyed the bizarre company of this wandering Southeast Asian snowbirdie, so much so that on that night at the bar, they offered me an odd little job—to help them behind the bar by simply pouring tequila and mezcal into shot glasses and changing CDs in the bathroom. In exchange, I would be paid in tips from customers. I said they had a deal, since I have always dreamed of trying out bartending for a while, as it was the closest thing to that "dream job" as I imagined.

Tishi Diaz

First shot

I learned the first lesson in bartending from them: never drink if you're the one pouring the drinks. And don't accept free drinks from overzealous customers. (Uy, Ate, oh well, I thought to myself that my liver was begging me for a vacation anyway.)

Second lesson: Inebriation is indirectly proportional to inhibition. The bartenders warned me that as the night unfolds and more customers become piss-drunk, they will flirt with you endlessly as if you were their personal psychiatrist, and unleash all their stories of their tribulations (in other words, their BS.) True enough, as the midnight hour approached and normal travelers from all over the world drowned themselves with shot after shot of tequila, they began to talk to me about their lives, their unrequited loves and triumphs (concepts reality by going far, far away from home.

I met some pretty wonder, drunken locals last night, a Scotsman told me that he actually lived on the moon, and was living the lunar eclipse the other day made him quite homesick. (I asked him to just if I could visit him sometime, and asked if he checked his e-mail frequently in the moon). I met a German girl who was just healing, and listened to her talk about her past life as a witch. I met bronzed Mexican surfers who told me that they needed to wake up early the next day to go to their "church" which was the Pacific Ocean. I spoke with a Mensa nelist man with a tattoo of a little boy on his chest, the face of his son, who, because of tragic circumstances, he had not seen in eight years.

You can bet that after listening to all these stories, I now truly believe that professional bartenders need a Ph.D. in Psychology. Or at least eat plenty to keep them from going crazy themselves.

Cheers

By the one thing I learned on my own, on my first-ever experience behind the bar, was that though we were all from different places, from different corners of the globe, we remain connected and communicate with the universal language of music. Driving out lyrics from Bruce Jam, Manu Chao and, of course, Bob Marley, or even dancing to the soundless images of television, I now truly believe that the world can speak with one tongue. In fact, I even indulged them with some Pinoy music from Pinkfloydsos and the CD "Watching Destination," the beautiful words of Filipino poetess Norma Gaerlan as interpreted by several Bayuhi musicians (UNREVEALED, by the way). Though most of the customers did not understand the lyrics, they absolutely flipped over the "music" Filipino born and rhythms that somehow resonated equals in their inner senses.

I also noticed that many people are experiencing what I'd baptize as a "spiritual evolution." I must confess that I share this similar, strange journey attempting to find inner peace and happiness. As I told one customer last night, who was struggling with his Catholic beliefs, so just feel blessed that he was not afflicted with blind faith, and to keep his eyes and mind open every day as possibly find answers to his burning questions.

Closing time

As the night came to a close, after cleaning tables and emptying ashtrays, I had a chance to finally order a beer and relax by the beach, and to listen to my own natural, favorite music—the sound of the waves crashing on the shorelines. I savored each sip, and came to the conclusion that, yes, perhaps everybody in this world walks in circle but in different degrees, only because we are all trying to make sense of the concept collectible.

A bar is simply a pitstop along the way, a temporary home, and guests come in—to drink, yes, but perhaps to have a little dose of normalcy, even for but a while, before facing the reality of tomorrow. I say cheers to that!

Email the author at tishidiaz@hotmail.com

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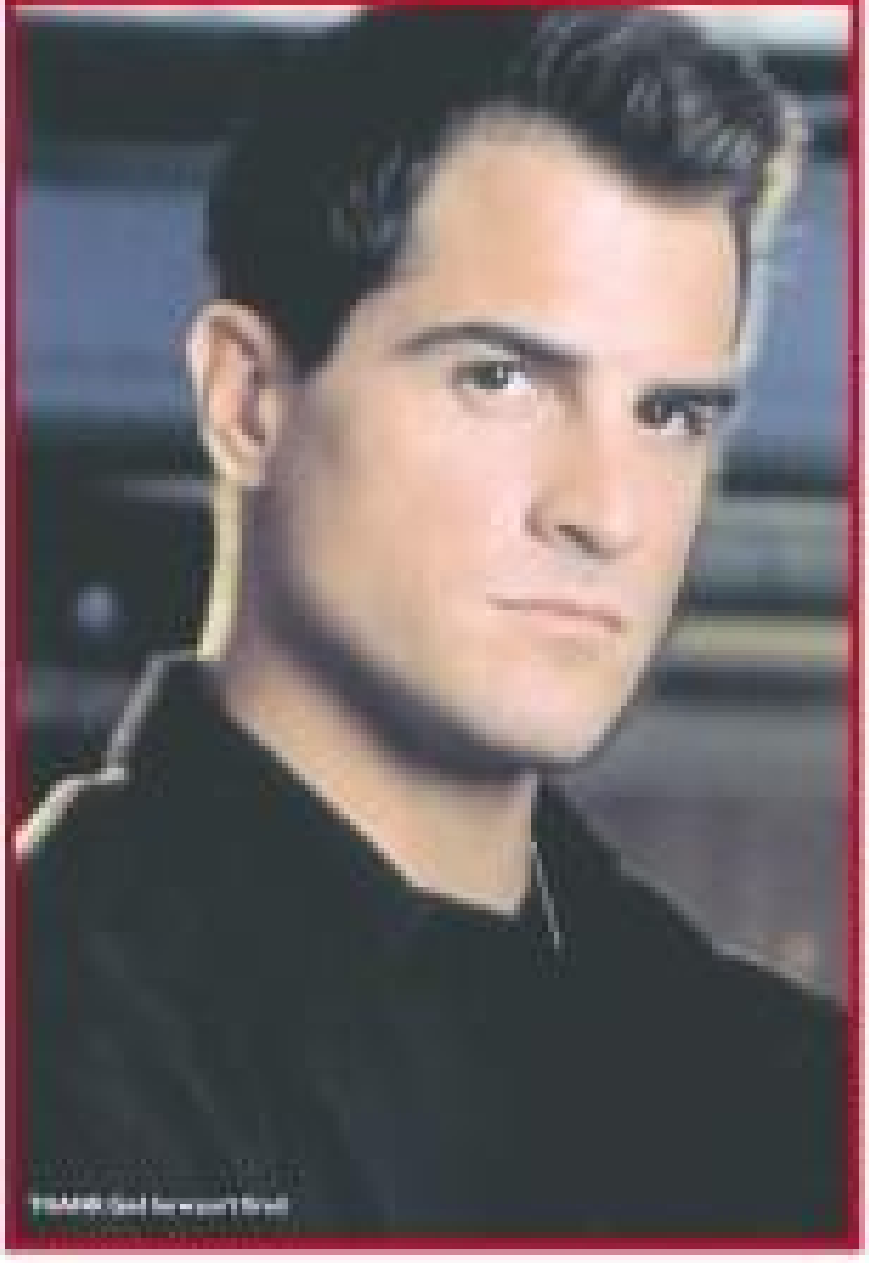

George Eads: CSI's sexy geek wants to be a superhero

By Oliver H. Palumbarit

ACTOR George Eads made his way in "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation" as the buff, square-jawed gay urban character, Nick Stokes, in an integral part of TV's premier forensics team. Nine of the show's seasons have breathed over some months ago as news spread that he was fired for not appearing in a vital contract negotiation meeting shortly before filming for the new season began.

George recently took a break from his busy schedule to talk about the successful series and his acting work in a telephone interview arranged by Studio 23, while in a Santa Clarita, California, sound stage. He says he has apologized for his no-show to the people concerned, and refutes reports of aggressive salary disputes. He claims that he simply woke up three hours late that day.

"Things got twisted around so it seemed like there's a salary dispute. It's just the wrong day to oversleep. And I haven't been late since," he says in his matured, thick Texan accent.

George explains that it's a rare opportunity to play the same character for over four years running, and he's glad that he's able to exercise an opposing in "CSI," especially after the arresting incident.

"What's kind of cool about a show that becomes a hit is, in the pilot episode, you create a character you observe a bit," he says. "I look at it as an ongoing issue. It's fun having the character change and mature; people will find that a fun treatment. There are times I

Tit for Tatler

George Eads: CSI's sexy geek wants to be a superhero

Sights for sore eyes

IN THIS generation of cosmetic drugs that eliminate wrinkles, injections that dissolve cellulite, pills that sculpt your muscles without smoking out, and implants that make your calves bulkier (what will they come up with next), more men and women are daring to show off the goods. Yes, men too. Men have gone beyond flaunting their bling-bling and are now showing off their muscular arms and washboard abs.

Their motto: "If you've got it, flaunt it!"

Was usually-men's-watch guys in shorts like bouncing wearing white linen capri pants and without a shirt on in show-off their brawn tan and hair braided just like a local's.

Tim Toyog

HEART-throb

There are other ways to express your love

Those "metrosexuals" (or as I like to call them, "guys in denial mode") are sometimes more vain than women. I don't really have a problem with that, as long as they're happy and don't hurt anyone. I admire people of all genders who are not afraid to show their true colors to the world.

"If you've got it, flaunt it!" is such a liberating motto. But how far the potential for abuse. Most people ignore the first part of the expression and go straight to the flaunting mode—"Look at my body! Look at it!" But if you really look carefully, the foundation of the expression is in "If you've got it." Aha! There's a lot of thought going on, although there's really not much that deserves to be shown at all.

Before one even starts to show-off, maybe one should shed the fish on top of those six-packs (ironically caused by ice sunscreen, sin pasok lamet). I've got shout-outs for you-G-Y-M. They're called crunches and they aren't made by Stealth. Lose the chips before they show in the hips. Those midriffs should really come with a warning label...not to be worn if you're over 100 lbs. I'm not bashing obese people. I'm just saying, choose the clothes that flatter you and not those that make you look fatter. As the stewies keep reminding us, "your body is your temple." And as the wise man with the initials T.T. would say, "you can always lose five more pounds."

Queer, straight rules

And while we're wallowing more than usual, let's hit all the no-nos in showing off, covering all-around categories.

If your face looks like it's growing on a huge pimple instead of the other way around, then here's two words for you—"shirt on." Open-toed shoes are made for hobbits, hellbike fire. If yours look like they've been plowing the fields with a carabao, then you better go a-back-to-basics and lead a simple life in the farm.

Wear Birkenstocks only if you're a hippie or smell like one. Nivea or any other local imitations of this rubber sandal with velcro straps should never be worn. Not even if you've just had a pedicure. Bone about Texas and jeans? How about acid-washed jeans, a Chicago Bulls cap and aviator sunglasses while singing "Si Ate Nayong Singgapin" [with munching crossed arms above the head]?

Wear tight and cycling shorts with small bulge in front only on two occasions: 1. a long bike ride, and 2. Halloween. Wait, I take back Halloween.

Tank tops should be limited to people with well-defined arms and no body odor. Facial hair on a woman is only forgivable if she's an Indian nun. The same goes for hairy backs. Plunging necklines should show the "right" cleavage and not just little "bumps that look more like mosquito bites."

Low-rise jeans with a glimpse of a thong are scary but the question must be asked: Are you holding it up or is the thong holding you up? It looks like somebody's trying to break out of prison in those pants. There's a thin line between looking good on camera and suffering from anorexia. Some of these models need to eat a sandwich. I could go on but I

LUD can go low

MODEST Mona Lisa

Superfriends

If you got it, you gotta flaunt it.

Do you think you have what it takes to be on Superfriends?

Email us at superfriends@inquirer.com.ph

Text and photos by: David Miller